

1880-81

R.M.H.S. RESOURCE CENTER
READING, MASS.



R E P O R T

OF THE

Town Officers of Reading,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1881.



R E P O R T

OF THE

Town Officers of Reading,

FOR THE

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1881.



READING :

CHRONICLE AND NEWS JOB PRINT.

1881.



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TOWN OFFICERS—1880-81.

Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor.

JOSEPH L. PRATT, *Chairman.*

JAMES REID, WILLIAM J. HOLDEN.

Assessors.

JOSEPH L. PRATT, JAMES REID, DAVID C. TEMPLE.

Town Clerk.

WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN.

Treasurer.

JAMES A. BANCROFT.

Collector of Taxes.

R. DEXTER TEMPLE.

School Committee.

| | | |
|---|---------------|------|
| HORACE G. WADLIN, <i>Chairman</i> | Term expires, | 1882 |
| CHARLES F. BROWN, <i>Secretary</i> , (resigned,)... | “ “ | 1881 |
| HENRY G. KITTREDGE | “ “ | 1882 |
| WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN | “ “ | 1881 |
| STILLMAN E. PARKER..... | “ “ | 1883 |
| ARTHUR W. TEMPLE..... | “ “ | 1883 |
| W. WALLACE DAVIS (to fill vacancy)..... | “ “ | 1881 |

Road Commissioners.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|------|
| JAMES A. BANCROFT..... | Term expires, | 1881 |
| CHARLES A. WESTON | “ “ | 1882 |
| JONATHAN MOULTON | “ “ | 1883 |

Engineers of the Fire Department.

CHARLES H. LANG, *Chief.*

GEORGE H. PARKER, EDWARD C. NICHOLS,
DANIEL CREESY, JAMES DEWHURST.

Constables.

HUBBARD E. COX, WILLIAM L. CROWE.

Police Officers.

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| HUBBARD E. COX, | WILLIAM L. CROW, |
| JOHN A. BLUNT, | EDWIN BASSETT, |
| CHARLES H. BEAN, | DANIEL B. LOVEJOY. |

Sealer of Weights and Measures.

DANIEL B. LOVEJOY.

Trustees of Public Library.

| | | |
|--|---------------|------|
| EDWARD APPLETON, <i>Chairman</i> | term expires, | 1881 |
| HIRAM BARRUS,..... | “ “ | 1882 |
| WALTER S. PARKER,..... | “ “ | 1882 |
| FRANCIS O. DEWEY,..... | “ “ | 1881 |
| STEPHEN FOSTER,..... | “ “ | 1883 |
| HORACE G. WADLIN,..... | “ “ | 1883 |

Trustees of the Cemetery.

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|------|
| SOLON BANCROFT, | Term expires, | 1882 |
| WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN, | “ “ | 1882 |
| FRANCIS O. DEWEY, | “ “ | 1881 |
| GILMAN C. GLEASON, | “ “ | 1881 |
| WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON, | “ “ | 1883 |
| JAMES A. BANCROFT, | “ “ | 1883 |

Auditors.

EDWARD APPLETON, CHARLES H. NOWELL,
GILMAN L. PARKER.

Births Registered in Reading in 1880.

| Date. | NAME OF CHILD. | Sex | NAMES OF PARENTS. | OCCUPATION OF FATHER. |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| OMITTED IN 1879. | | | | |
| Nov. 5 | Wm. Brooks Heselton, | M | Jonathan and Phila A., | Cabinet Maker. |
| 1880 | | | | |
| Jan. 31 | Florence Elva McIntire, | F | Adelbert C. and Almira E., | Painter. |
| Feb. 4 | Arthur Herbert Choate, | M | Fitz Herbert and Ella M., | Shipping Clerk. |
| " 6 | Leon Albert Hartwell, | M | Albert A. and Helen F., | Shoemaker. |
| " 25 | Edith Louise Temple, | F | David C. and Maria A., | Carpenter. |
| " 28 | Elbridge Clarence Merrill, | M | Clarence E. and Jennie T., | R. R. Employee. |
| March 6 | Bertha Marsh Stock, | F | Henry and Adda L., | Cabinet Maker. |
| " 23 | William Sherman Badger, | M | William H. and Carrie A., | Organ Builder. |
| " 25 | William Roscoe Day, | M | Arthur B. and Nellia A., | Painter. |
| April 4 | Margaret Louisa Richardson | F | Twins. | |
| " 4 | John Howard Richardson, | M | Henry M. and Lydia A., | Mechanic. |
| " 24 | Ethel Florence Berry, | F | Daniel W. and Eliza A., | Batcher. |
| May 6 | Alfred Lewis Harrington, | M | Edward B. and Helen, | Merchant. |
| " 19 | Sam'l Quincy Pierce Brown, | M | Samuel and Josephine, | Wheelwright. |
| " 24 | Libbie Pearl Bickford | F | Daniel T. and Hattie M., | Clerk. |
| " 29 | Ernest Prescott Nowell, | M | Charles H. and Anna M., | Clerk. |
| June 2 | Frank Clifford Carter, | M | William and Martha A., | R. R. Conductor. |
| " 22 | Mabel Elizabeth Bancroft, | F | Lewis M. and Annie B., | Ins. Inspector. |
| " 24 | Harriet May Hyde, | F | Edmund A. and Matilda F., | Merchant. |
| " 25 | Ethel Josephine Austin, | F | Henry R. and Maria J., | Machinist. |
| " 27 | Marion Appleton Howes, | F | Benjamin L. and Carrie L., | |
| July 2 | William Edwin Johnson, | M | Alden S. and Clara E., | Dealer in Land. |
| " 24 | Louise Blanchard, | F | Langdon and Agnes, | Laborer. |
| " 28 | Hattie Florence Manning, | F | George E. and Ida M., | Laborer. |
| Aug. 1 | Grace Bancroft Nichols, | F | Moses E. and Emma E., | Painter. |
| " 29 | Celia Thaxter Erskine, | F | Lewis W. and Margaret, | Provision Dealer. |
| " 31 | Annie Rose Doucette, | F | Dominic and Anna J., | Stone Mason. |
| Sept. 2 | Robert Baldwin Weston, | M | David and Mary A., | Brush Maker. |
| " 6 | Mary Ellen Kilman, | F | Jeremiah and Catherine, | Laborer. |
| " 7 | Grace Lillian Broad, | F | Nathaniel W. and Mary A. | Carpenter. |
| " 14 | Archibald McIntire, | M | Charles H. and Rebecca H., | Mechanic. |
| " 26 | Thomas Ambrose Muse, | M | John and Sylvia, | Stone Mason. |
| Oct. 3 | Alice Ethelyn Stimpson, | F | James N. and Nettie M., | Moulder. |
| " 22 | Edwin Francis Killam, | M | Joseph W. and Mary S., | Farmer. |
| " 31 | Percy Atvin Swain, | M | Charles H. and Emma M., | Shoe Laster. |
| Nov. 8 | Annie Lillian Parker, | F | Frank and Hannah O. | Shoe Manufact'r. |
| " 11 | Francis Henry Dewey, Jr., | M | Francis H. and Augusta T., | Merchant. |
| " 12 | Florence Bancroft Allen, | F | Charles H. and Hattie B., | Farmer. |
| " 13 | Lousia Driscoll, | F | Jeremiah and Catherine, | Laborer. |
| " 17 | Ethel Charles Damon, | F | Charles E. and Annie W., | Neck Tie Manu'r. |
| " 22 | Alice Lucy Danforth, | F | Alfred W. and Alice A., | Apothecary. |
| Dec. 6 | _____ Judkins, | F | John S. and Nellie J., | Expressman. |
| " 7 | _____ Cass, | M | Herbert L. and Katie L., | Shoemaker. |
| " 12 | Ella Cecelia Bunker, | F | Henry and Mary L., | Cabinet maker. |
| " 13 | Herold Francis Parker, | M | Walter S. and Isabella M., | Teacher. |
| " 14 | Emma Blanche Rich, | F | Seth and Martha E., | Broker. |

Whole number of Births registered in Reading for the year 1880, 46. Males, 19; Females, 27. Nativity of parents, Fathers, United States, 41; Foreign, 5. Females, United States, 38; Foreign, 8.

Marriages Registered in the Town of Reading in 1880.

| Date. | NAME OF GROOM AND BRIDE. | Age. | RESIDENCE. | OCCUPATION OF GROOM. | PLACE OF BIRTH. | NAME OF PARENTS. | No. of Marriages. | BY WHOM MARRIED. |
|---------|--|----------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Jan. 21 | Edward B. Eames, Clara L. Young, | 24 24 | Wilmington, | Fraber, | Wilmington, | Martha B. and Sarah W., | First, | Rev. William B. Ely. |
| March 9 | George J. Carr, Florence Niles, | 29 22 | Reading, | Lawyer, | Endfield, N. H., | John P. and Emily A., | " | Rev. William B. Ely. |
| " 10 | Herbert W. Bancroft, Ann G. Morrill, | 23 21 | Reading, | R. R. Employee, | Indian Spring, Ga., | Samuel D. and Lavina D., | " | Rev. L. J. White. |
| " 17 | Arthur G. Emerson, Emily F. Batchelder, | 24 22 | Reading, | Farmer, | Fewksbury, | Nathan A. and Annie M., | " | Rev. William B. Ely. |
| " 19 | Lewis F. Gay, Hattie M. Hawes, | 23 19 | N. Reading, | Farmer, | Reading, | Silas G. and Augusta, | " | Rev. William B. Ely. |
| " 31 | Horace G. Monlton, Annie Goodwin, | 25 30 | Reading, | Merchant, | North Reading, | David and Fannie, | " | Rev. William B. Ely. |
| " 31 | Michael Shammahan, Annie J. Morgan, | 29 24 | Stonham, | Trader, | Hollister, | Jonathan and Olive, | " | Rev. Arthur J. Hovey, |
| April 7 | Charles S. Coney, Annie M. Ballard, | 24 21 | Reading, | Laborer, | Lowell, | John G. and Joanna, | " | [Stonham.] |
| " 13 | Charles E. Estlin, Lettie Wright, | 22 15 | Reading, | Painter, | Ireland, | Patrick and Catherine, | " | Rev. M. F. Flatley, |
| " 27 | Milo H. Gould, Clara E. Batchelder, | 22 20 | N. Woburn, | Shoemaker, | Reading, | John and Helen J., | " | [Wakefield.] |
| May 4 | Herbert H. Heseltoun, Katie T. Morgan, | 22 24 | Woburn, | Farmer, | North Woburn, | George C. and Jane M., | " | Rev. James K. Ewer. |
| " 9 | Stilson H. Dow, Maria A. Spinney, | 49 49 | Reading, | Mechanic, | Townsend, | George and Elizabeth A., | " | Rev. L. J. White. |
| " 3 | Henry E. Holden, Mia L. Safford, | 24 25 | Reading, | Cabinet Maker, | Andover, | Wm. R. and Martha A., | " | Rev. William Burrows. |
| " 3 | John Bowditch, Harriet F. Wright, | 58 38 | Reading, | Merchant, | Reading, | Henry A. and Sally, | " | Rev. John N. Short. |
| " 6 | Jon. Allen Eames, Anna C. Weston, | 23 23 | Reading, | Salt-sman, | Boston, | Richmond and Evelyn, | " | Rev. James K. Ewer. |
| " 15 | Morrill W. Arkerson, Mary E. Bancroft, | 28 26 | Brighton, | Lab. r. r., | Manchester, | John and Ellen J., | Fourth, | Rev. Oscar F. Safford. |
| " 16 | Ira O. Gray, Sarah B. Melendy, | 26 24 | N. Andover, | Carriage Manuf., | Reading, Me., | Moses and Miranda (Nelson) | First, | Rev. J. F. Mears. |
| July 1 | Benjamin F. Pike, Olive A. Richardson, | 24 19 | Woburn, | Farmer, | Reading, | Arkaid T. and Ellen C., | Second, | Rev. C. W. Heizer. |
| July 8 | Jacob Dexter Jones, Julia Etta Healy, | 28 19 | Boston, | Farmer, | Woburn, | Edward and Eliza J., | First, | Rev. L. J. White. |
| | | | | | Salem, | Jonathan and Lucy, | " | Rev. Henry R. Wilbur, |
| | | | | | | James and Dorinda, | " | [Andover.] |
| | | | | | | James T. and Harriet A., | " | Rev. J. F. Mears. |
| | | | | | | James and Elizabeth, | " | Rev. C. D. Bradley, |
| | | | | | | Joseph and Mahala F., | " | [Boston.] |
| | | | | | | Benjamin O. and Harriet, | " | |
| | | | | | | Dudley and Elizabeth, | " | |
| | | | | | | Calvin E. and Esther F., | " | |
| | | | | | | Johnson and Dorcas R., | " | |
| | | | | | | Jacob and Elmira, | " | |
| | | | | | | James and Margaret, | " | |

Deaths Registered in Reading in 1880.

| Date. | NAMES. | Age. Y. M. D. | NAMES OF PARENTS OF HUSBANDS. | CAUSE. |
|----------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan. 2 | John E. Walker, | 53 3 18 | John and Mary, | Cancer. |
| " 4 | Nathaniel A. Taylor, | 5 24 | N. A. and Amanda, | Bronchitis. |
| " 8 | Lucia M. Temple, | 41 4 5 | Joseph S. Temple, | Pneumonia. |
| " 20 | Katie M. Donnegan, | 21 14 | Morris and Bridget, | Phthisis Pulmonis. |
| " 25 | Clarissa Danforth, | 69 8 | Charles C. Danforth, | Bronchial Consum'n. |
| Feb. 13 | George H. M. Todd, | 1 4 16 | Thomas R. and Abbie S., | Diphtheric Croup. |
| " 19 | Isaac Weston, | 84 5 5 | John and Mary, | Old Age. |
| March 11 | Mary E. Doucette, | 3 10 | John and Fanny, | Pertussis Hydroceph's |
| April 4 | John H. Richardson, | 2 | Henry M. and Lydia A., | infantile Debility. |
| " 5 | Louisa Emerson, | 67 7 | Frederick and Mary, | Pneumonia. |
| " 10 | George H. Mason, | 32 1 9 | Osro and Eliza A., | Consumption. |
| " 15 | John W. Gleason, | 68 4 9 | Joseph and Lucy B., | Consumption. |
| " 18 | Katharina Miller, | 48 | Frederick Miller, | Heart Disease. |
| " 22 | Seth H. Temple, | 69 10 3 | Jonathan and Lucinda, | Apoplexy. |
| May 4 | Newton J. Richardson, | 49 | Joel and Hepsah, | Carus of bones of foot. |
| " 9 | Henry Stickney, | 40 | Edward B. and Hannah, | |
| " 21 | Beulah Appleton, | 89 5 26 | Ebenezer and Beulah, | Old Age. |
| June 3 | Jerome Parker, | 54 | Ephraim and Harriet, | Scrof'us Abcess of Pgs |
| " 5 | John Fields, | 42 4 | John and Mary, | Congestion of Liver. |
| " 24 | Sarah L. Harrington, | 38 11 16 | | Cancer. |
| July 2 | Harry Hunton, | 69 | | Paralysis. |
| " 8 | J. Brooks Leathe, | 67 4 6 | James Jr., and Mary W., | Cancer. |
| " 18 | Emma M. Richardson, | 32 9 | Everett B. Richardson, | Consumption. |
| " 30 | Francis A. Appleton, | 63 5 12 | Edward Appleton, | Bronchial Consump'n |
| Aug. 7 | Elnathan Brown, | 73 6 16 | Nathan and Mehitable, | Apoplexy. |
| Sept. 5 | Frederick Doucette, | 5 2 | Timothy and ——— | Infantile Debility. |
| " 6 | Annie M. Kummer, | 74 1 22 | Henry W. Kummer, | Brain Disease. |
| " 20 | William G. Nichols, | 51 1 6 | Luther and Rebecca, | Cancer. |
| " 22 | Roland B. Hetler, | 28 | Adam and Sarah, | Consumption. |
| Oct. 5 | Christina C. Copeland, | 31 9 | Alfred and Christina | Consumption. |
| " 6 | Clarissa Bryant, | 81 | [Perkins, | Heart Disease. |
| Nov. 12 | Mary Muse, | 18 | Frank and Elizabeth, | Typhoid Fever. |
| " 12 | Abby Northey, | 81 3 3 | John and Hannah, | Paralysis. |
| " 12 | Delia Doucette, | 3 | Felix and Mary, | Membranous Croup. |
| " 16 | Martha E. Hutchinson, | 58 11 | John H. Hutchinson, | Cancer of Liver. |
| Dec. 3 | Nora Abby Batchelder, | 9 3 22 | Edward S. and Ella G., | Diphtheria. |
| " 4 | Cornelia Prentiss, | 60 9 | S. T. and A. W. Ruggles, | Disease of Brain. |
| " 7 | Chas. A. Batchelder, | 5 8 28 | Edward S. and Ella G., | Diphtheria. |
| " 10 | Annie E. Stevenson, | 48 6 14 | Wm. and Mary Marsha, | Consumption. |
| " 23 | Priscilla Leathe, | 63 7 13 | Kendall and Abigail Nick | Cancer. |
| " 27 | John R. Norwood, | 33 11 24 | John and Mary A., | Phthisis Pulmonalis |

Whole number of Deaths registered in the year 1880, 41. Males, 20; Females, 21. Natives of Reading, 16; other towns in the United States, 21; Foreign, 4.

Dog Licenses.

Whole number of Dogs licensed for the year 1880..... 107

Males, 103.

Females 4.

103 males at \$2.00 each..... \$206 00

4 females at 5.00 " 20 00

\$226 30

Fees, for 107 licenses, 20 cents each..... 21 40

Paid County Treasurer..... \$204 60 as per receipt.

MIDDLESEX, ss., Dec. 11th, 1880.

Wm. J. Wightman, Clerk of the Town of Reading, has paid into the Treasury of said Middlesex County, two hundred four and 60-100 dollars for Dog Licenses for the year eighteen hundred and eighty, as per his account of 1st instant.

AMOS STONE, County Treasurer.

WM. J. WIGHTMAN, Town Clerk

Support of Poor at Almshouse.

EXPENDED.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| For groceries..... | \$353 15 |
| flour and bread..... | 157 58 |
| grain and meal..... ⁴ | 181 40 |
| provisions..... | 192 92 |
| bedding and clothing..... | 39 48 |
| furniture and crockery..... | 39 48 |
| wood and coal..... | 159 03 |
| wheelwright and blacksmith bills..... | 20 34 |
| hired labor..... | 135 90 |
| medical attendance and medicines..... | 36 62 |
| burial expenses of Harry Hunton..... | 23 00 |
| “ “ “ Clarissa Bryant..... | 22 75 |
| stock..... | 9 72 |
| fresh fish..... | 34 38 |
| repairs..... | 3 82 |
| farming tools..... | 3 05 |
| sundries..... | 40 02 |
| buffalo robe..... | 2 25 |
| salary of keeper..... | 400 00 |
| | <hr/> \$1854 89 |

RECEIVED.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| From stock and produce sold..... | \$224 14 |
| wood sold..... | 173 13 |
| boarding horse and cow..... | 5 00 |
| “ sundry persons..... | 210 11 |
| lighting street lamps..... | 146 00 |
| Catharine O'Keefe's pension and state aid | 144 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$902 38 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | 902 38 |
| lodging and food for 203 tramps at 30 cts. | 60 90 |
| teaming | 30 |
| labor on highways..... | 105 20 |
| tarring trees on common..... | 2 00 |
| collection of bills of previous years..... | 116 17 |
| orders drawn on treasurer | 667 94 |
| | <hr/> \$1854 89 |
| Orders drawn on treasurer..... | \$667 94 |
| Amount of bills collected for previous years... | 116 17 |
| | <hr/> \$784 11 |
| Amount of bills due almshouse account..... | 278 58 |
| | <hr/> |
| Net expense of poor at almshouse..... | \$505 53 |

INVENTORY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT ALMSHOUSE.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Furniture, crockery, tin ware, etc..... | \$294 77 |
| Beds and bedding..... | 302 78 |
| Stoves and furniture..... | 103 75 |
| Provisions | 169 68 |
| Farming tools, harness, etc..... | 230 98 |
| One horse | 145 00 |
| One cow..... | 40 00 |
| Light wagon..... | 25 00 |
| Farm wagon..... | 50 00 |
| Stone wagon..... | 20 00 |
| Two carts..... | 80 00 |
| Sled..... | 18 00 |
| Sleigh..... | 12 00 |
| Mowing machine | 20 00 |
| Hay..... | 118 00 |
| Wood and coal | 114 12 |
| Grain | 8 15 |
| Manure | 75 00 |
| Arches for building cisterns..... | 10 00 |
| Posts and lumber..... | 3 00 |
| Fowls | 18 50 |
| Buffalo robe..... | 2 50 |
| Bills due for produce, labor, etc..... | 534 45 |
| | <hr/> \$2395 63 |

INMATES OF ALMSHOUSE.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Joanna Wall | Age 81 years. |
| Clarissa Bryant, died Oct. 6, 1880..... | 81 |
| Catharine O'Keefe | 74 |
| Caroline E. Wiley..... | 74 |
| Mary Brown..... | 80 |
| Harry Hunton, died July 2, 1880..... | 69 |
| Jonathan Pratt | 71 |
| Daniel Spokesfield | 62 |
| Alpheus Austin | 61 |
| James Hunter, left April 5th, re-admitted Oct. 9 | 37 |

SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

EXPENDED.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Eliza M. Bancroft, supplies..... | \$78 21 |
| Abigail P. Beers, support at lunatic hospital... | 174 34 |
| Alma J. Day, " " " ... | 53 14 |
| Benjamin Weston " " " ... | \$184 82 |
| " " " of family, fuel..... | 11 00 |
| | <hr/> \$195 82 |
| George C. Stevens, support at lunatic hospital... | 74 10 |
| Emory B. Eames..... | 129 54 |
| Jaques Gowing, support of wife at lunatic hospital. | 188 02 |
| Mary A. Blanchard, supplies..... | \$15 50 |
| " " " fuel..... | 53 50 |
| " " " med. attend. and medicines,. | 36 75 |
| | <hr/> 105 75 |
| Mrs. Emil Ross, supplies..... | 2 00 |
| George H. Daland, fuel..... | \$11 89 |
| " " " supplies..... | 6 41 |
| | <hr/> 18 30 |
| John H. Daland, s upplies..... | \$7 00 |
| " " fuel..... | 19 13 |
| | <hr/> 26 13 |
| Bridget Donegan, fuel..... | \$7 50 |
| " " supplies..... | 79 50 |
| | <hr/> 87 00 |

| | | |
|---|----------|--------|
| Charles E. Dame and family, supplies..... | \$76 00 | |
| “ “ “ “ rent..... | 75 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 151 00 |
| Luella R. Lloyd, rent..... | \$65 00 | |
| “ “ “ fuel..... | 32 12 | |
| | <hr/> | 97 12 |
| Sarah E. Hartshorne, supplies..... | \$160 53 | |
| “ “ “ fuel..... | 26 38 | |
| “ “ “ medical attendance..... | 45 85 | |
| | <hr/> | 232 76 |
| Cleaveland B. Holt, supplies..... | \$78 00 | |
| “ “ “ fuel..... | 11 13 | |
| | <hr/> | 89 13 |
| William H. Manning, supplies..... | | 78 19 |
| John A. Messer, supplies..... | | 43 75 |
| Hannah J. Nichols, “ | \$15 00 | |
| “ “ “ fuel | 21 62 | |
| “ “ “ rent | 10 00 | |
| “ “ “ medicine..... | 35 | |
| | <hr/> | 46 87 |
| Louisa R. Parker, supplies..... | | 41 43 |
| Sarah L. Penny, supplies..... | | 9 00 |
| Henry Hook and family, supplies..... | \$10 00 | |
| “ “ “ fuel..... | 24 00 | |
| “ “ “ rent..... | 20 00 | |
| “ “ “ medical attendance.... | 56 00 | |
| “ “ “ burial expenses..... | 20 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 130 00 |
| Dorothy Pierce, supplies..... | \$10 00 | |
| “ “ rent..... | 42 00 | |
| “ “ fuel..... | 31 63 | |
| “ “ medical attendance..... | 12 50 | |
| | <hr/> | 96 13 |
| Mary E. Grover, supplies..... | \$40 00 | |
| “ “ “ burial expenses..... | 20 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 60 00 |
| Newton J. Robinson, supplies..... | \$3 00 | |
| “ “ “ fuel..... | 11 25 | |
| “ “ “ medical attendance..... | 2 50 | |
| “ “ “ burial expenses..... | 23 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 39 75 |

| | | |
|--|---------|------------|
| William H. LaChance, supplies..... | 9 00 | |
| Denzil Harrington, burial expenses of wife..... | 23 00 | |
| Lucy Freeman, supplies..... | 13 15 | |
| Sarah L. Johnson, "..... | \$10 00 | |
| " " " fuel..... | 11 25 | |
| " " " medical attendance and medi- cine..... | 19 35 | |
| | <hr/> | 40 60 |
| Miranda and Julia E. Ellenwood, rent..... | 31 50 | |
| " " " medical attendance..... | 2 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 33 50 |
| Mary Muse, State pauper, supplies..... | 96 | |
| " " " " medical attendance... | 48 00 | |
| " " " " medicines..... | 15 58 | |
| " " " " nursing..... | 16 44 | |
| " " " " burial expenses..... | 18 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 98 98 |
| Fred. Carter, traveller, medical attendance..... | 1 25 | |
| | <hr/> | \$2,467 34 |

ADDITION TO AND REPAIR OF ALMSHOUSE.

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| Wendell Bancroft, for labor and material..... | \$982 07 | |
| Moses E. Nichols for painting..... | 138 56 | |
| | <hr/> | \$1120 63 |

RECEIVED FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF ALMS- HOUSE, AS PER TREASURER'S REPORT.

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| From city of Springfield for supplies for O. N. Wilder..... | \$ 13 75 | |
| town of Malden for supplies for S. L. Penny | 70 79 | |
| town of Athol for M. and J. E. Ellenwood | 103 06 | |
| | <hr/> | \$187 60 |

DUE FOR SUPPORT OF POOR OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| From city of Boston for supplies for Luella R. | |
| Lloyd and family..... | \$ 97 12 |
| city of Boston for supplies for Charles E. | |
| Dame and wife..... | 151 00 |
| town of Malden for supplies for Sarah L. | |
| Penny..... | 9 00 |
| town of Winchendon for aid of Denzil | |
| Harrington | 23 00 |
| | <hr/> \$280 12 |

TOWN OFFICE.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Paid for stationery, blanks, etc..... | \$ 25 12 |
| postage stamps | 6 61 |
| coal and wood | 13 00 |
| cleaning office | 2 50 |
| rent from Jan. 1, 1880, to March 1, 1881.. | 175 00 |
| | <hr/> \$222 23 |

TOWN OFFICERS.

| | |
|--|------------|
| Paid William J. Wightman, for services as Town | |
| Clerk to March 1, 1881..... | \$25 00 |
| William J. Wightman, for recording births, | |
| deaths and marriages..... | 35 00 |
| Joseph L. Pratt, for services as Selectman, | |
| Assessor, Overseer of Poor, Board of | |
| Health, etc., to March 1, 1881..... | 275 00 |
| James Reid, for services as Selectman, As- | |
| sessor, Overseer of Poor, Board of Health, | |
| etc., to March 1, 1881..... | 450 00 |
| William J. Holden, for services as Select- | |
| man, Overseer of Poor, Board of Health, | |
| etc., to March 1, 1881..... | 175 00 |
| David C. Temple, for services as Assessor. | 250 00 |
| James A. Bancroft, for services as Treas- | |
| urer to March 1, 1881..... | 125 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$1,335 00 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,335 00 |
| James A. Bancroft, for services as Collector to March 1, 1881..... | 75 00 |
| R. Dexter Temple, on account, for services as Collector..... | 100 00 |
| Horace G. Wadlin, for services as School Committee to March 1, 1881..... | 60 00 |
| Henry G. Kittredge, for services as School Committee to March 1, 1881..... | 55 00 |
| William J. Wightman, for services as School Committee..... | 35 00 |
| W. Wallace Davis, for services as School Committee to March 1, 1881..... | 8 00 |
| Stillman E. Parker, for services as School Committee for 1878 and 1879 | 45 00 |
| Arthur W. Temple, for services as School Committee to March 1, 1881..... | 50 00 |
| Charles F. Brown, for services as School Committee from Mar., 1879, to Dec., 1880. | 70 00 |
| James A. Bancroft, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1881..... | 50 00 |
| Charles A. Weston, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1881..... | 50 00 |
| Jonathan Moulton, for services as Road Commissioner to March 1, 1881..... | 45 83 |
| Hubbard E. Cox, for services as Constable. | 24 50 |
| William L. Crowe, for services as Constable and Policeman to March 1, 1881.... | 21 00 |
| John A. Blunt, for services as Policeman. | 10 00 |
| Ames Gowing, for services as Policeman, July 3d, 4th, 5th, 1880..... | 5 00 |
| John Norwood, for services as Policeman, July 3d and 5th, 1880..... | 4 00 |
| J. C. Gleason, for services as Auditor for 1879-80 | 10 00 |
| Francis Bartley, for services as Auditor for 1879-80 | 10 00 |

 \$2063 33

PRINTING.

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Paid C. T. Tolman, for printing the annual reports for 1879-80..... | \$152 50 | |
| for printing and advertising for Town Clerk | 7 00 | |
| “ “ “ “ “ Selectmen . | 12 50 | |
| “ “ “ “ Assessors' notice | 5 00 | |
| J. Mandeville, for printing tax bills..... | 6 00 | |
| “ “ “ “ and advertising | 5 50 | |
| “ “ printing and advertising town warrant | 6 50 | |
| W. H. Twombly, for printing and advertising | 3 25 | |
| | <hr/> | \$198 25 |

STREET LIGHTS.

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Paid Citizens' Gaslight Co., for gas | \$142 39 | |
| Globe “ “ “ naphtha..... | 48 40 | |
| “ “ “ “ eleven street lanterns and fixtures..... | 77 00 | |
| Globe Gaslight Co., for eleven patent burners | 44 70 | |
| Globe Gaslight Co., for five unions for burners | 1 40 | |
| Globe Gaslight Co., for frame and screws for street lanterns..... | 1 25 | |
| Lang's express, for expressage and sundries | 9 72 | |
| Joseph L. Pratt, for twelve lamp posts.... | 15 00 | |
| John A. Blunt, for labor and material.... | 1 62 | |
| Thomas B. Richards, for labor setting lamp posts | 4 00 | |
| Hiram Litchfield, for labor setting lamp posts | 2 62 | |
| Moses E. Nichols, for painting lamp posts | 2 21 | |
| William H. Bancroft, glazing street lanterns | 5 74 | |
| Wendell Bancroft, labor on lamp posts. . . | 2 25 | |
| Frank H. LaClair, for lighting | 14 10 | |
| T. Littlefield, for tin can..... | 75 | |
| George W. Beasely, for lighting 72 nights | 50 00 | |
| George Beasely, keeper, labor self and horse, lighting | 146 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$569 15 |

STATE AID.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Paid Dorcas Berry | \$48 00 |
| Seth Bessey | 72 00 |
| Mary A. Blanchard..... | 48 00 |
| George W. Carleton..... | 27 00 |
| Martin J. DeRonde..... | 57 00 |
| Lydia C. Eaton | 48 00 |
| Caroline Goodwin | 48 00 |
| Sarah Hetler..... | 48 00 |
| Lambertus W. Krook | 36 00 |
| Benjamin McAllister..... | 72 00 |
| William Mears..... | 50 40 |
| Sarah Nichols | 48 00 |
| Catharine O'Keefe..... | 48 00 |
| Margaret Pinkham | 48 00 |
| Charlotte Richardson..... | 48 00 |
| Harriet C. Robinson..... | 48 00 |
| Henry F. Scruton..... | 72 00 |
| Eliza Stevens | 48 00 |
| Marcella Wood | 48 00 |
| | <hr/> \$962 40 |

MILITARY AID.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Paid George E. Leathe..... | \$124 00 |
| John F. Cook..... | 45 00 |
| | <hr/> \$169 00 |

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Paid James A. Bancroft on list of 1877, personal | \$ 4 00 |
| “ “ “ “ 1878, “ | 79 58 |
| “ “ “ “ 1879, “ | 149 51 |
| “ “ “ “ 1877, real.... | 8 40 |
| “ “ “ “ 1878, “ | 96 69 |
| “ “ “ “ 1879, “ | 62 09 |
| Joseph Fultz, for over taxation..... | 10 50 |
| R. Dexter Temple on list of 1880, personal | 24 15 |
| “ “ “ “ real | 8 63 |
| | <hr/> \$443 55 |

MISCELLANEOUS.

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Paid E. R. Morse & Co., repairing safe in office | \$15 00 |
| Lyceum Hall Association for use of hall for town meetings in 1880 | 40 00 |
| James S. Campbell, fees in Bessy case... | 7 30 |
| J. Horace Green, damages from accident on highway | 25 00 |
| H. A. Davis, sealing standard weights and measures | 6 75 |
| George W. Batchelder, for burying a dead dog | 50 |
| Ira Bradley & Co., for binding a volume of records of fire department | 3 00 |
| Rand, Avery & Co., for enlarging, binding and lettering record books for Town Clerk's office | 36 00 |
| George F. Morgan, for abstracts of mort- gages..... | 9 36 |
| Peter B. Teed, packing and oiling tree protectors..... | 2 75 |
| A. S. Richardson, for repairing pumps... | 5 75 |
| Thomas Groom & Co., tax book for Col- lector..... | 1 50 |
| Nathan Bancroft, repair and care of town flag..... | 7 00 |
| Wendell Bancroft, for labor on band stand | 93 |
| Gilman C. Gleason, repairs on tomb and hearse | 5 55 |
| Gilman C. Gleason, returning 44 deaths to Town Clerk | 11 00 |
| David C. Temple, railroad fares and pos- tage stamps | 9 90 |
| H. G. Wadlin, taking census of school children | 10 00 |
| George Beasely, keeper, for tarring trees on common | 2 00 |
| William J. Wightman, making official re- cords..... | 15 00 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$214 29 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$214 29 |
| William J. Wightman, issuing certificate to representative in 1879-80..... | 4 00 |
| William J. Wightman, stationery, stamps and dog licenses in 1880 | 5 00 |
| William J. Wightman, expenses connected with binding town records | 5 00 |
| Tolman & White, for printing report of committee on by-laws..... | 10 00 |
| T. C. Hurd, Clerk of Courts of Middlesex Co., fees connected with approval of by-laws | 5 90 |
| Solon Bancroft, Esq., for services in case of T. R. Blackeney..... | 10 00 |
| Solon Bancroft, Esq., cash expended in said case..... | 10 00 |
| | <hr/> \$264 19 |

SCHOOLS.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$8000 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 7982 41 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount unexpended..... | \$17 59 |

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$700 00 |
| From other sources..... | 22 92 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 722 92 |
| Amount expended..... | 722 28 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount unexpended..... | \$0 64 |

REPAIR OF HIGHWAYS.

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$3000 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 3000 00 |
| | <hr/> |

CLEARING SNOW.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$300 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 300 00 |
| | <hr/> |

MINERAL STREET.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$300 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 207 30 |
| | <hr/> |

Amount unexpended..... \$92 70

LOCUST STREET.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$200 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 200 00 |
| | <hr/> |

FLAGSTONES MAIN AND HAVEN STREETS.

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$150 00 |
| Amount expended..... | 119 80 |
| | <hr/> |

Amount unexpended..... \$30 20

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$300 00 |
| Dog tax..... | 198 46 |
| | <hr/> |

Amount drawn..... \$498 46

CEMETERY.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$300 00 |
| Amount drawn..... | 300 00 |
| | <hr/> |

SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Appropriation..... | \$150 00 |
| Amount drawn..... | 150 00 |
| | <hr/> |

OLD SOUTH CLOCK.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Appropriation | \$50 00 |
| Amount drawn | 50 00 |
| | <hr/> |

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Appropriation | \$1900 00 |
| Amount expended | 1806 68 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$93 32 |

CISTERN, HIGH STREET.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Appropriation at annual meeting | \$300 00 |
| “ “ November “ | 70 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 370 00 |
| Amount expended | 369 47 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount unexpended.... | 53 |

STREET LIGHTS.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Amount expended | \$569 15 |
| Appropriation..... | 500 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Excess of appropriation | \$69 15 |

ADDITION TO AND REPAIR OF ALMSHOUSE.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount expended | \$1120 63 |
| Appropriation | 1000 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Excess of appropriation | \$120 63 |

INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| Amount expended | \$3227 00 |
| Appropriation | 3150 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| Excess of appropriation..... | \$77 00 |

ORDINARY EXPENSES.

EXPENDED.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| For poor in almshouse..... | \$ 667 94 |
| poor out of almshouse | 2466 96 |
| state aid | 962 40 |
| military aid..... | 169 00 |
| printing..... | 198 25 |
| town office | 222 23 |
| abatement of taxes..... | 443 55 |
| miscellaneous..... | 228 29 |
| town officers..... | 2063 33 |
| state paupers | 107 98 |
| tramps..... | 60 90 |
| excess of appropriations for street lights... | 69 15 |
| “ “ “ addition to alms- | |
| house..... | 120 63 |
| Amount expended | <u>\$8780 61</u> |
| Appropriation for ordinary expenses..... | 5000 00 |
| Excess of appropriation | <u>\$3780 61</u> |

RECEIPTS NOT APPROPRIATED.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| From city of Boston for support of Luella R. | |
| Lloyd | \$98 75 |
| city of Springfield for support of O. N. | |
| Wilder | 13 75 |
| town of Malden for support of Sarah L. | |
| Penny | 70 79 |
| state aid | 1127 00 |
| military aid..... | 180 59 |
| town of Athol for support of M. and J. E. | |
| Ellenwood..... | 103 06 |
| interest for money on deposit..... | 123 14 |
| corporation tax | 884 24 |
| bank tax | * 466 51 |
| auctioneer's license | 2 00 |
| cash in hands of Treasurer March 1, 1880, | |
| not appropriated | 5665 74 |
| | <u>\$8735 57</u> |

SUMMARY.

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Cash in hands of Treasurer, March 1, 1880.... | \$7,165 74 |
| from city of Boston for support of Luella Lloyd and family | 98 75 |
| R. D. Temple, auctioneer's license.. | 2 00 |
| city of Springfield, for support of O. N. Wilder..... | 13 75 |
| town of Malden, for support of Sarah L. Penny | 70 79 |
| New England Trust Co., interest on deposits..... | 123 14 |
| corporation tax..... | 884 24 |
| town of Athol, for support of M. and J. E. Ellenwood | 103 06 |
| national bank tax..... | 466 51 |
| state aid | 1,127 00 |
| relief of indigent soldiers and sailors | 180 59 |
| dog licenses | 198 46 |
| old junk, from school committee.... | 6 92 |
| tuition " " " | 16 00 |
| taxes of 1878-9 | 7,990 86 |
| interest on taxes of 1878, 1879 | 373 43 |
| taxes of 1880 | 21,081 94 |
| interest on taxes of 1880 | 59 82 |
| Collector, in payment of county tax. | 979 89 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$40,942 89 |
| Expenditures..... | 36,072 20 |
| | <hr/> |

Cash in hands of Treasurer.. \$4,870 69

EXPENDITURES.

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| For schools..... | \$7,982 41 |
| incidental school expenses..... | 722 28 |
| fire department..... | 1806 68 |
| | <hr/> |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$10,571 37 |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$10,571 37 |
| For printing | 198 25 | |
| addition to, and repair of, almshouse..... | 1,120 63 | |
| public library..... | 498 46 | |
| cemetery..... | 300 00 | |
| soldiers' graves | 150 00 | |
| old south clock | 50 00 | |
| street lights..... | 569 15 | |
| town office..... | 222 23 | |
| abatement of taxes..... | 443 55 | |
| military aid | 169 00 | |
| cistern, High street..... | 369 47 | |
| state aid..... | 962 40 | |
| miscellaneous expenses..... | 264 19 | |
| town officers | 2,063 33 | |
| almshouse | 667 94 | |
| poor out of almshouse..... | 2467 34 | |
| tramps | 60 90 | |
| highways and bridges | 3,000 00 | |
| clearing snow | 300 00 | |
| Locust street..... | 200 00 | |
| Mineral street..... | 207 30 | |
| flag stones, Main and Haven streets | 119 80 | |
| state tax..... | 1,950 00 | |
| county tax | 979 89 | |
| interest on town debt | 3,227 00 | |
| reduction of town debt | 5,000 00 | |
| | ————— | \$36,072 20 |

The preceding pages of our report, will, in connection with the reports of the several departments, show that the affairs of the town are in a prosperous condition, and indicate a hopeful future.

It has been customary for years, to make an appropriation for what is termed ordinary expenses ; in our report, page —, will be found the different items of expense, thus indifferently expressed, to which, with the receipts unappropriated, we desire to call especial attention, with the recommendation that, hereafter, if it should meet the approval of the town, an appropriation be made for each item referred to as ordinary expenses ; in which appropriation the money received

from various sources, and which has been unappropriated, shall be included, thereby preventing the accumulation of an unappropriated balance in the treasury.

FINANCIAL.

During the year a note of five thousand dollars became due, to meet which, no appropriation had been made. The note was paid from money in the treasury, thereby reducing the town debt that amount. This, with increase in valuation, both of real and personal estate, as shown in the Assessors' report, are causes for congratulation.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The stone crossing on Main and Haven streets, the concrete walk near the Christian Union Church, and on Woburn street, at the residences of William Proctor, Esq., and Mr. Benjamin M. Boyce, are improvements so great as to demand notice; certainly anything which tends to attract and beautify, and which at the same time is really useful, should be approved most heartily. In some of the adjoining towns action has been taken in the matter of public improvements; and while the expense of any proposed improvement should be duly considered, certain steps might be taken which would not only improve, but also render our town more attractive, and receive the cordial support of all.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

With pleasure and no small degree of pride, do we call attention to this department. Under the present management it has been brought to a high degree of efficiency; reports which reach us from a neighboring town, as to the valuable service rendered when called there recently, fully sustain its previous record. Only on emergencies, like the recent fire in Wakefield, are both engines allowed to be absent from town at the same time. This wise regulation commends itself to all. In order to facilitate the efforts of firemen in extinguishing fires when they occur, plenty of accessible water is absolutely necessary, and we commend to the favorable notice of the town the request in the town warrant for additional cisterns.

RECORDS.

Attention would again be called to the present inadequate means for the protection and care of the town records. The Selectmen,

during the year, have made the best use of such facilities as they had, using so far as it was convenient a safe or vault in the present town office; this safe or vault is small, incapable of holding but a portion of books and records, which if destroyed could not be replaced; the records of enlistments, for instance, which are quite full and complete. What is needed is a room, fire-proof, adjoining the town offices in which all records and books of value can be deposited, in such a manner as to be accessible for reference.

STREET LIGHTS.

There are at the present time 19 gas lights and 22 naphtha lights, 11 of the latter having been added during the year. It having become necessary to make new arrangements as to lighting, the expense attending the same has been a matter of some consideration, and as the demand for street lights seems to be on the increase, the subject is thus brought directly before the town.

ALMSHOUSE.

Improvements at the almshouse have been completed, and what was once inconvenient and unsafe, is made safe, comfortable and convenient. The house is now in a condition which will preclude the necessity of any large outlay for a number of years.

Two deaths have occurred among the inmates during the year. The general health of the inmates is good, which is largely due to the excellent supervision of those in charge, and we deem the town quite fortunate in having secured the services of those so capable and well adapted for the positions they hold to have the care of their poor.

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| JOSEPH L. PRATT, | } | Selectmen |
| JAMES REID, | | and |
| WILLIAM J. HOLDEN, | | Overseers of Poor. |

Dr. JAMES A. BANCROFT, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Reading. Cr.

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| To balance in treasury March 26, 1880. | | | |
| uncollected taxes..... | \$8930 28 | | \$24,915 31 |
| cash..... | 7105 74 | | 5,000 00 |
| | <u> </u> | | 3,227 00 |
| | \$16,096 02 | | 1,950 00 |
| cash of city of Boston, for support of L. R. Lloyd..... | 98 75 | | <u>\$35,092 31</u> |
| cash of city of Springfield, for support of O. N. Wilder..... | 13 75 | Uncollected taxes for 1878..... | \$57 19 |
| cash of town of Malden, for support of S. L. Penny..... | 70 79 | “ “ 1879..... | 882 23 |
| cash of town of Athol, for support of M. Ellenwood and daughter..... | 103 06 | Cash balance in the treasury..... | |
| corporation tax..... | 884 24 | | \$939 42 |
| national bank tax..... | 466 51 | | <u>4,870 69</u> |
| state aid, law of 1877..... | 572 50 | | \$40,902 42 |
| “ “ 1879..... | 554 50 | | |
| relief of indigent soldiers and sailors, law of 1878..... | 135 59 | | |
| relief of indigent soldiers and sailors, law of 1879..... | 45 00 | | |
| auctioneer's license..... | 2 00 | | |
| dog license..... | 198 46 | | |
| school committee..... | 22 92 | | |
| interest on deposits..... | 123 14 | | |
| “ “ taxes..... | 373 43 | | |
| R. Dexter Temple, collector..... | 21,141 76 | | |
| | <u> </u> | | |
| | \$40,902 42 | | |
| Received of State school fund,..... | \$197 53 | Paid bill per order School Committee,..... | \$ 35 87 |
| | | Balance,..... | <u>161 66</u> |
| | | | \$ 197 53 |

Assessors' Report.

Your Assessors respectfully submit the following Report: We have made a thorough examination of all the real estate in the town, visiting each parcel, ascertaining its location, and estimating its value, after such personal examination, and feel confident the result will meet your approval. The increase in real estate is \$26,212, about 1 1-4 per cent. In estimating the value of personal property, we have followed the course adopted by the Board of the previous year, and have visited the several offices for the registration of deeds, in pursuance of that course, and in compliance with the instructions of the town at the last annual meeting. The increase of personal property is \$54,543, about 18 per cent; the increase on the total valuation being \$80,755, about 3 1-4 per cent. We have made the several returns required of us by the statutes, and have made and returned a certified copy of the Assessors' book for the year 1880, and have also, in accordance with the vote of the town, prepared and had printed, the valuation of the town for the same year. We herewith present the following statements:

VALUATION FOR TAXATION.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Real estate..... | \$2,109,096 00 | |
| Personal estate..... | 348,720 00 | |
| | <hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> | \$2,457,816 00 |
| Amount of appropriations..... | \$23,800 00 | |
| Overlays..... | 806 71 | |
| State tax..... | 1,950 00 | |
| County tax..... | 979 89 | |
| | <hr style="width: 10%; margin: 0 auto;"/> | \$27,536 60 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Assessed on 864 polls, \$2 each..... | \$1,728 00 |
| “ “ personal estate..... | 3,661 98 |
| “ “ real estate..... | 22,146 62 |

\$27,536 60

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Two polls subsequently assessed.... | 4 00 |
|-------------------------------------|------|

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total amount of list submitted for collection..... | 27,540 60 |
|---|-----------|

Rate of taxation \$10 50 per \$1,000.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Total number of polls..... | 866 |
| “ “ horses..... | 273 |
| “ “ cows..... | 334 |
| “ “ sheep..... | 9 |
| “ “ dwelling houses..... | 685 |
| “ “ acres of land..... | 573 ¹ 3-4 |

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| JOSEPH L. PRATT, | } Assessors of Reading. |
| JAMES REID, | |
| D. C. TEMPLE, | |

Reading, March 1, 1881.

Collector's Statement.

IN ACCOUNT WITH TOWN OF READING.

DR.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| To tax list for collections..... | \$27,540 60 | |
| interest collected.... | 59 66 | |
| discount on County tax..... | 4 36 | |
| | <hr/> | \$27,604 62 |

CR.

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| By cash paid James A. Bancroft, Treasurer, | \$21,141 76 | |
| “ Amos Stone, County tax.... | 979 89 | |
| uncollected taxes..... | 5,482 97 | |
| | <hr/> | \$27,604 62 |

R. DEXTER TEMPLE, Collector.

Reading, March 1, 1881.

Road Commissioners' Report.

The Road Commissioners for the year ending March, 1881, respectfully submit the following report. We have during the year done an unusual amount of grading ; also have reduced the grade of several hills, which, with paying the bills due against this department for the previous year, oblige us to let a small amount of bills lay unpaid. The roads we think are now in an improved condition.

Mineral street is not completed, but we think the unexpended balance will be more than sufficient to finish it.

We would recommend the sum of three thousand dollars for ordinary repairs, and three hundred for clearing snow.

The receipts and expenses have been as follows :—

ORDINARY REPAIRS.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Paid George Beasely, keeper, for labor of self and team in 1879 and 1880 | \$161 37 |
| J. B. Nichols, for labor of team | 50 |
| Robert A. Harmon, for labor of self and team | 168 30 |
| Jonathan Moulton, for labor | 179 20 |
| “ “ for labor of man | 12 38 |
| “ “ for labor of team | 124 51 |
| “ “ for material | 2 40 |
| Timothy Riordan, for labor | 153 00 |
| Daniel Sullivan, for labor | 131 03 |
| Patrick Burns, for labor | 125 78 |
| Daniel Sullivan, Jr., for labor | 4 87 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$1,063 34 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,063 34 |
| Gardner French, for labor..... | 4 20 |
| Emerson Smith, for labor..... | 130 73 |
| James Driscoll, for labor | 21 00 |
| Henry F. Parker, for labor of man and team | 115 60 |
| Curtis Davis & Co., for labor of man and team | 64 50 |
| Newton Symonds, for labor of man and team | 39 00 |
| Wm. F. Paul, for labor of man and team.. | 10 50 |
| Charles H. Ballard, for labor | 20 25 |
| Benjamin McAllister, for labor..... | 75 |
| Alexander Nelson, for labor | 25 50 |
| D. P. Babb, for labor of self and team.... | 3 00 |
| J. A. Smith, for labor | 28 87 |
| W. P. Downing, for labor..... | 3 00 |
| A. B. Smith, for labor..... | 22 50 |
| A. F. Emerson, for labor of self and team | 18 00 |
| O. A. Swain, for labor | 128 55 |
| A. G. Carter, for labor of self and team.. | 29 25 |
| Amos Damon, 2d, for labor | 66 75 |
| Walter A. Emerson, for labor of self and team | 65 25 |
| Edwin Manning, for labor..... | 3 00 |
| — Dole, for gravel | 37 50 |
| Receivers of Reading Savings Bank, for gravel | 7 50 |
| George H. Parker, for gravel | 18 00 |
| M. M. Cummings, for gravel..... | 1 35 |
| Thomas Cox, for gravel..... | 5 00 |
| Albert Janes, for labor | 94 65 |
| D. C. Sanborn, for labor | 25 |
| Noble Bunker, for labor in 1879..... | 2 25 |
| Whittemore Bros., for plow..... | 14 00 |
| Wm. L. Jones, for labor of self and team.. | 18 00 |
| C. A. Weston, for labor | 178 60 |

Amount carried forward, \$2,240 64

| | |
|---|----------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$2,240 64 |
| C. A. Weston, for labor of team..... | 188 55 |
| John Mellen, for labor..... | 134 10 |
| Joseph Stokes, for labor..... | 81 75 |
| William Riordan, for labor | 13 50 |
| Jeremiah Shannon, for labor..... | 72 45 |
| J. Breck & Son, for road rake | 1 00 |
| J. C. Lynch, for hammer handle in 1879.. | 35 |
| Oscar Foote, for gravel | 23 65 |
| George R. Turner, for gravel..... | 3 00 |
| “ “ for use of roller..... | 1 50 |
| William Porter, for gravel | 2 45 |
| A. S. Perkins, for gravel..... | 26 25 |
| R. C. Totten, for labor..... | 12 77 |
| Wendell Bancroft, for labor and material. | 1 50 |
| James M. Eames, for labor and material.. | 20 00 |
| Benjamin Peterson, for edge stone | 22 00 |
| J. D. Jones, for labor of self and team.... | 3 00 |
| T. P. Eames, for use of scraper | 1 00 |
| Patrick Barrett, for labor..... | 64 50 |
| C. H. Moulton, for stone..... | 30 |
| “ “ for use of pump..... | 50 |
| J. A. Bancroft, for labor | 1 00 |
| Mathew Hanley, for gravel..... | 8 90 |
| town of North Reading, for repairs on bridge, 1879 | 12 25 |
| Michael Forbes, for labor of self, man and team | 6 00 |
| Augustus Fultz, for labor of self and team | 21 00 |
| C. S. Barnes, for bound stone..... | 6 00 |
| James Lahey, for covering stone..... | 7 00 |
| H. S. LaClair, for labor..... | 3 00 |
| Bradley Bancroft, for labor | 4 95 |
| Henry Gorus, for labor | 4 50 |
| Hiram Litchfield, for labor | 27 15 |
| Zeb Lampro, | 1 28 |
| Wm. Ramsdell, for labor..... | 1 05 |
| T. F. Gould, for labor..... | 6 16 |
| | —————\$3025 00 |

| | | |
|---|--------|-----------|
| Credit by cash of Jonathan Moulton, for loam.. | 3 00 | |
| “ “ “ Joseph Stokes, for loam..... | 3 00 | |
| “ “ “ Patrick Barrett, for loam | 3 00 | |
| “ “ “ G. C. Gleason, for loam..... | 16 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$25 00 |
| Appropriation | | <hr/> |
| There is due George Beasley, keeper, for labor. | 100 65 | \$3000 00 |

BUILDING MINERAL STREET.

| | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| Paid O. A. Swain, for labor..... | \$22 05 | |
| John Mellen, for labor..... | 22 05 | |
| Timothy Riordan, for labor..... | 20 55 | |
| Patrick Burns, for labor..... | 20 55 | |
| Chas. A. Weston, for labor..... | 29 40 | |
| Chas. A. Weston, for labor of team..... | 29 55 | |
| R. A. Harmon, for labor of self and team. | 35 10 | |
| Joseph Stokes, for labor..... | 4 50 | |
| Patrick Barrett, for labor..... | 14 55 | |
| Dennis P. Babb, for labor of self and team. | 9 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$207 30 |
| Unexpended..... | | 92 70 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Appropriation..... | | \$300 00 |

BUILDING LOCUST STREET.

| | | |
|---|---------|----------|
| Paid Jonathan Moulton, for labor..... | \$30 50 | |
| Jonathan Moulton, for labor of team..... | 23 20 | |
| Emerson Smith, for labor..... | 22 13 | |
| Daniel Sullivan, for labor..... | 22 13 | |
| Waldo P. Downing, for labor..... | 25 38 | |
| Henry F. Parker, for labor of man and team, | 38 25 | |
| Milo Parker, for labor..... | 10 87 | |
| Henry W. Kummer, for labor..... | 18 38 | |
| James A. Bancroft, for labor..... | 1 00 | |
| B. C. Clark, for labor..... | 6 00 | |
| T. F. Gould, for labor..... | 2 16 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Appropriation..... | | \$200 00 |

LAYING FLAGSTONES ON MAIN AND HAVEN STREETS.

| | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| Paid Benjamin Peterson, for flag-stone and lay- ing same..... | \$95 33 | |
| Benjamin Peterson, for covering stone.... | 27 07 | |
| D. Doucette, for labor..... | 2 50 | |
| Chas. A. Weston, for labor..... | 8 70 | |
| John Mellen, for labor..... | 90 | |
| Jeremiah Shannon, for labor..... | 30 | |
| | <hr/> | \$134 80 |
| Credit by cash received of Edwin Manning..... | | 15 00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$119 80 |
| Unexpended..... | | 30 20 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Appropriation..... | | \$150 00 |

CLEARING SNOW.

| | | |
|--|--------|----------|
| Paid E. P. Nichols, for labor..... | \$8 10 | |
| R. B. Nichols, for labor of self and team... | 23 55 | |
| Augustus Fultz..... | 7 20 | |
| R. M. Boyce, for labor of self and team... | 9 15 | |
| O. A. Swain, for labor..... | 16 12 | |
| Jeremiah Shannon, for labor..... | 11 02 | |
| B. C. Clark, for labor..... | 2 10 | |
| G. W. Batchelder, for labor..... | 1 00 | |
| A. J. Varney, for labor..... | 8 10 | |
| Daniel Nichols, for labor..... | 2 25 | |
| Bradley Bancroft, for labor..... | 4 80 | |
| Henry Batchelder, for labor..... | 1 65 | |
| John Owens, for labor..... | 6 30 | |
| Chas. A. Weston, for labor, self and team.. | 8 26 | |
| S. R. Roby, for labor..... | 1 50 | |
| John Knights, for labor..... | 1 50 | |
| A. S. Johnson, for labor..... | 8 10 | |
| W. A. Bancroft, for labor..... | 1 95 | |
| R. A. Harmon, for labor..... | 11 48 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Amount carried forward, | | \$134 13 |

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$134 13 | |
| W. K. Temple, for labor..... | 75 | |
| Joseph Stokes, for labor..... | 1 35 | |
| J. M. Eames, for labor..... | 4 50 | |
| R. C. Totten, for labor..... | 45 | |
| D. P. Babb, for labor..... | 1 95 | |
| Wm. Frost, for labor in 1879-80..... | 1 12 | |
| Wendell Bancroft, for labor..... | 10 25 | |
| Chas. H. Moulton, for labor of self, man and team..... | 33 50 | |
| Henry Gorus, for labor..... | 3 00 | |
| Alexander Nelson, for labor..... | 3 53 | |
| Jonathan Moulton, for labor of self and team, | 33 60 | |
| William Ramsdell, for labor..... | 7 80 | |
| Emerson Smith, for labor..... | 11 14 | |
| Patrick Burnes, for labor..... | 10 69 | |
| Daniel Sullivan, for labor..... | 2 10 | |
| J. W. Bruce, for labor..... | 86 | |
| John R. Hutchinson..... | 90 | |
| J. B. Nichols, for labor of self, men and teams..... | 37 38 | |
| James A. Bancroft, for labor..... | 1 00 | |
| Appropriation..... | | \$300 00 |
| There is due George Beasely, keeper, for labor, clearing snow..... | \$21 50 | |
| There is due Charles A. Weston, for labor..... | 20 54 | |
| | | \$42 04 |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| JAMES A. BANCROFT, | } | Road Commissioners of Reading. |
| CHARLES A. WESTON, | | |
| JONATHAN MOULTON, | | |

Reading, March 1, 1881.

Report of the Cemetery Committee.

During the past year we have undertaken to improve the entrances to the Cemetery from Main street. Heavy granite posts have been erected ready for the reception of new gates. There is a sufficient balance in the hands of the committee for the purpose, so that no additional appropriation will be required on that account. Our financial statement is as follows :

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Balance on hand at the commencement of the year | \$19 69 | |
| Appropriation by the town..... | 300 00 | |
| Received from sale of lots..... | 157 00 | |
| Received from sale of standing wood, (net proceeds) | 64 90 | |
| Received for the old gate..... | 2 00 | |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$543 59 |
| Expended in care of the grounds..... | \$300 00 | |
| Paid for granite gateposts and setting them.... | 150 00 | |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$450 00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Balance on hand..... | | \$93 59 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| F. O. DEWEY, G. C. GLEASON, W. J. WIGHTMAN, JAS. A. BANCROFT, W. S. RICHARDSON, S. BANCROFT, | } Committee. |
|---|--------------|

Reading, March 1, 1881.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Engineers.

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen of Reading :

In submitting our annual report we can but congratulate the citizens of our town on the extraordinary small loss of property by fire the past year.

The total number of alarms during the year was five, as follows :

April 15, 1880. A brush fire on land of John F. Cook on Pearl street. Damage slight.

April 16, 1880. House on High street known as the Hartshorn house, which was totally destroyed. Loss about \$600. Insured for \$300.

June 29, 1880. An alarm caused by the slight burning of the railroad bridge on Lowell street. No damage.

Dec. 20, 1880. A small building on Green street, occupied by M. A. Stone as a storehouse and stable. Damage trifling.

March 12, 1881. The whole department responded to an alarm in Wakefield, caused by the burning of the Rattan Works, and by their efforts the large storehouse, No. 14, containing a valuable stock of manufactured goods, was saved.

The apparatus belonging to the town is all in good condition, and is well officered and manned, and we could not suggest any change wherein we think our department could be improved in this respect, but complaints have arisen on the part of the Hook and Ladder men and also on the part of Eagle Engine Co. (and we think not wholly without cause) that the buildings occupied by them should be improved, and we would suggest that a committee be chosen at our next annual meeting, consisting of non-members of the fire department, who shall hear all parties interested, and report to the town at some subsequent meeting.

Our water supply has been increased the past year by a fine large cistern on the corner of High street and Middlesex avenue, and the well on Haven street has been thoroughly repaired, but we must renew our recommendations of past years that the town should put in one or more cisterns or reservoirs, annually, until all exposed points are provided for.

The expenses of the department the past year were as follows :

| | |
|--|----------|
| Paid Horace A. Parker, services as steward of Eagle Co., to July 1, 1879..... | \$10 00 |
| Horace A. Parker, services as fireman of Eagle Co., to July 1, 1879..... | 1 66 |
| Chas. K. Gleason, services as steward of Eagle Co., to May 1, 1880..... | 50 00 |
| Samuel Brown, services as steward of Hook and Ladder Co., to May 1, 1880.. | 5 00 |
| Samuel Brown, repairs, &c..... | 6 00 |
| Arthur S. Richardson, steward of Hancock Co., to May 1, 1880..... | 48 00 |
| Arthur S. Richardson, leathering Hancock Engine | 2 50 |
| Lang's Express, for expressage..... | 6 21 |
| Chas H. Lang, for services as Chief Engineer..... | 25 00 |
| Members of Reading Fire Department, for services during the year ending May 1, 1880..... | 1,293 59 |
| J. Dexter Jones, watching fire April 15, 1880..... | 1 00 |
| James Dewhurst, services as engineer for the year ending May 1, 1880..... | 12 00 |
| G. W. Batchelder, watching fire on turnpike..... | 1 00 |
| Garfield & Co., painting and varnishing Hancock Engine..... | 65 00 |
| Moses B. Dennet, watching fire near Daniel Putnam's..... | 1 00 |

Amount carried forward, \$1,527 96

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,527 96 |
| Wilmot K. Pratt, watching fire at J. Cook's lot..... | 1 00 |
| Geo. W. Simmons, for overalls..... | 8 00 |
| Geo. H. Parker, for services as engineer from May 1, '79, to May 1, '80..... | 12 00 |
| Geo. H. Parker, for services as clerk from May 1, '79, to May 1, '80..... | 5 00 |
| E. C. Nichols, for services as engineer from May 1, '79, to May 1, '80..... | 12 00 |
| Warren Parker, for labor and material.... | 1 33 |
| William L. Crowe, for labor and cash paid for labor on well, Haven street..... | 7 25 |
| Dexter Bros. for 200 lbs. lead..... | 18 00 |
| J. C. Cook, for painting Hancock Engine House, &c..... | 37 00 |
| Benj. Peterson, labor..... | 2 25 |
| Chas. H. Moulton, labor and material on well, Haven street..... | 78 50 |
| G. W. Atkinson, sundries for Hancock Engine Co..... | 60 |
| Horace W. Blanchard, services as engine-man to Oct. 31, 1880..... | 5 00 |
| Walter E. Coney, watching fire, April 15, 1880 | 1 00 |
| P. McCall, sundries..... | 4 50 |
| J. C. Gleason, 1-2 ton coal for Eagle Engine Co..... | 3 50 |
| Wendell Bancroft, coal delivered Hancock Engine Co..... | 3 62 |
| G. W. Atkinson, supplies for Hancock Engine Co..... | 98 |
| M. E. Nichols, setting glass in Eagle Engine House..... | 1 15 |
| Hunneman & Co., for sundries..... | 3 00 |
| F. J. Bancroft, labor, drawing hose to fires, &c..... | 3 75 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$1,737 39 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$1,737 39 |
| Jonathan Frost, rent of land for Engine | |
| House to March 1, 1881..... | 3 00 |
| William L. Crowe, for labor..... | 6 75 |
| John A. Blunt, for labor and material.... | 7 57 |
| B. Field, for straps for Engine Co. No. 4. | 1 50 |
| Daniel Creesy, labor on cistern, engine | |
| houses, &c..... | 34 47 |
| Daniel Creesy, services as engineer to | |
| May 1, 1880..... | 11 00 |
| Samuel Brown, for use of horse..... | 3 75 |
| R. C. Totten, labor and material..... | 1 25 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$1,806 68 |
| Amount unexpended..... | 93 32 |
| | <hr/> |
| Amount appropriated..... | \$1,900 00 |

We think that the sum of seventeen hundred (\$1700) dollars will cover the expenses of the department the ensuing year, and recommend that amount to be appropriated.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES H. LANG, Chief Engineer.

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| E. C. NICHOLS, | } Assistants. |
| GEO. H. PARKER, | |
| DANIEL CREESY, | |
| J. DEWHURST, | |

GEO. H. PARKER, Clerk.

Reading, March 16, 1881.

Library Report.

The Trustees of the Public Library present the following as their thirteenth annual report :—

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Annual appropriation | \$300 00 |
| Dog licenses | 198 56 |
| Fines, etc | 35 19 |
| Miscellaneous | 69 |
| | ————— \$534 44 |

PAYMENTS.

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Librarian | \$105 00 |
| Rent..... | 125 00 |
| Insurance..... | 18 75 |
| Binding books..... | 22 50 |
| Books, etc | 255 38 |
| Printing labels | 3 75 |
| Incidentals..... | 4 06 |
| | ————— \$534 44 |
| Number of books purchased..... | 145 |
| “ from other sources | 12 |
| “ in library..... | 4,472 |
| Circulation..... | 13,189 |
| Number of patrons..... | 739 |

It will be seen that our expenses for binding and other purposes have been less than usual, and we have consequently been able to devote a larger amount of money to the purchase of books. Quite a number of volumes have been added to the library during the present month.

"It is our desire that the library while increasing its number of volumes should also make, at least, a corresponding increase in usefulness. To this end we believe we cannot do a better service than to reproduce for the consideration of our citizens, a portion of the suggestions contained in the reports of the Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, librarian of Boston public library, for the years 1879 and 1880 :

"It has been said that the chief end of a library is to get itself read : not primarily for amusement, though that may be a legitimate purpose, but mainly for instruction ; and it is claimed that books, even the most frivolous, may serve two useful purposes. First, that they engage attention through vacant hours which would otherwise be unwisely spent, if not in crime, and so serve as an auxiliary to the police force ; and, secondly, that the mere fact of reading, irrespective of its character, tends to improve the taste and judgment, until at length they come to demand better things than they have been accustomed to. Whatever degree of truth may be allowed to these claims, it is evident that so long as taste and judgment may be improved by external influences such influences should be called into requisition, and young readers not be wholly left to their own caprice. And I understand the problem in respect to public libraries to be, not how their patrons, young or old, shall extract a certain amount of amusement from books provided for their use, but rather how they can be induced to enter into the fullest possession of the accumulated wealth which rightfully belongs to them.

"There is ample testimony that young people who have had the education which common schools afford can be taught to appreciate the best of literature, and for that best, to abandon the worst or the indifferent. But it is also clear that they must be taught. Such preference of the best does not come by any process of natural evolution. In this, as in other matters, good influences come mainly from without and above.

"What every good book needs is a good teacher behind it. Sometimes this teacher may be another book ; but better still, a living, personal influence, as constant and as active, and, if possible, as well systemized as that of the public schools, meeting every youth in the community arriving at a certain age, and continuing friendly companionship until judgment, matured by age and best associations, shall unerringly direct such youth to the best fields of literature. And by reason of a present lack of such personal influence in the Public

Library, I would seek to secure such healthful association by establishing more intimate relations between the Public Library and the personal educational force of the public schools. Not that either should be merged in the other, or delegate its functions to the other ; but that each working after the law of its organic life should co-operate with the other in their common purpose of educating the community. The best literature of the Public Library should find its way into the public schools ; and the best influence of the public schools should accompany those who enter the Public Library.

"Nor is there anything novel in these suggestions. It was claimed by those most active in founding the Public Library at municipal expense, that, rightly considered, it was a part of the public school system, and when fully developed would take its place naturally at the head of that system.

"And there are those whose convictions are becoming clear that the use of the Public Library by the pupils in the public schools will subserve its most beneficent ends only when regulated in accordance with the views of those more immediately charged with the education of youth. Amusements at public expense have as yet become no part of our system, nor are likely to become ; but to furnish the means of education to every child on the soil is a fundamental idea likely to lose its place neither in the organic law nor in the minds of the people. And the Public Library will maintain its place in the public favor and receive the supplies necessary to its efficient existence, not by furnishing that amusement which is found in sensational and low-toned reading, but rather by showing its efficiency as a public educator.

"This leads directly to the question : How can the Public Library be made to participate more efficiently than at present in the work of public education ? Assuming that the reading of poor literature leads to the reading of better literature, still the process is slow and expensive, and can only be defended on the further assumption that any more direct and less expensive process is impracticable. A better way is worth seeking.

"If we regard the Public Library as a part of a system of public education, and carry the idea to its legitimate results, then the way begins to become clear, since every system of education worthy the name includes some personal educator. It is not enough that school-houses are built and books furnished gratuitously to pupils, nor that

free libraries exist and are brought to every man's door. Schools and libraries require the teacher behind them if best results would be secured.

"The problem, then, as it seems to me, is this: How to make the Public Library, in like manner as the public school, an instrument in the hands of the public teacher of imparting knowledge at the public expense to those whom the city is under legal obligations to educate."

"On the reopening of the public schools in September last an experiment was made, which, though not on precisely the same basis as that I recommend, led to some interesting and valuable results, which I now propose to lay before the Trustees.

"By previous arrangement with the principal of the Wells School I received from him a requisition on the Public Library for fifty copies of "A Summer in Leslie Goldthwaite's Life," by Mrs. Whitney, to be retained for an indefinite period; and, some months later, for the same number of "Pizarro; his Adventures and Conquests," by George M. Towle.

"Several difficulties arose with respect to these requests. In the first place there were no more than two or three copies, instead of fifty, of each in the Library, and no funds from which they could be properly purchased; and, secondly, the nature of the loans, and the time for which they were desired, were in contravention of the Library rules. But, there being a good will, a good way was found. The books were purchased from funds supplied from a private source, and presented to the Library, and accepted by the Trustees, with the conditions annexed, that they should be loaned according to the will of the donor.

"After nearly a year's use the books have been returned to the Library in as good order substantially as when they left; and there they remain to meet a similar requisition, and to be subjected to the same use on the reopening of the public schools in September. I have assurances that they will then be demanded by more than one teacher.

"But in the mean time it seems to me that it is worth stating what they have already done. When they were loaned to the Wells School, before being issued to the pupils, they were neatly covered by them and made ready for use. These pupils seem to have taken pride in using them carefully, as only one of them shows the results of carelessness. And this fact is worthy of being contrasted with the

general use of the Library by a similar class of persons who draw books from it under different circumstances.

“‘Leslie Goldthwaite’ was read successively by three classes, comprising more than one hundred and fifty girls ; and ‘Pizarro,’ by two classes, comprising over one hundred girls.

“The reading of these books was not a part of regular school exercises ; that is, the pupils were expected to read each her own copy at home, as she would read any other book taken from the Public Library, but to be ready once a week, in her class, to be examined on what was thus read.

“In this examination is found the chief interest and value of the scheme ; and it seems to be new.

“Reading is an art which, with a little of almost everything, has been taught in the public schools immemorially ; but how to read a book—an entire book—is an acquisition made by few, and never, so far as I am aware, systematically taught in the public schools.

“This experiment made in the Wells School, with the co-operation of the Public Library, is, I think, the first ever made, and it was successful.

“By simultaneous reading of the same book, and by class examination in respect to what they read, these pupils, under the skilful teaching of their master, came finally to see, as they would be likely to learn in no other way, that every good story is a work of art, consisting of a plot in which the incidents should follow each other in such order and relation as properly to bring about the result ; that the personages should act and talk consistently, and with reference to the result ; and, finally, that style should be simple, clear, and appropriate, and the ornamentation just. They came to see that the true value and chief interest in novels consist in these very qualities, rather than in the sensational and exaggerated.

“These one hundred and fifty girls, under the instruction which was only possible with the facilities thus exceptionally granted by the Public Library, have acquired a critical judgment which will serve them in good stead, not only with respect to the books they may hereafter draw from the Public Library, but, if the same system could be made applicable to all the schools, would soon settle the vexed question of what sort of fiction should be purchased by the Trustees.

“I have dwelt less on the details of the experiment because several of the Trustees have witnessed at least one of the weekly examina-

tions, and have reached a conclusion as to its value not unlike my own.

"Why, then, may not what has proved of value in a single school be extended so as to include ultimately all the schools whose teachers have the requisite interest to undertake and skill to carry forward a similar work ?

"The teacher should be absolutely free to choose the book he desires to use. This is essential. A book which interests another and serves another's purpose may not interest him nor serve his purpose. He wants his own tools. Consequently, no stock of books, in numbers however large, selected by the school committee or the Trustees, will answer.

"Finally, should this work be entered upon, I do not apprehend any such general and immediate requisitions by the teachers as will deplete the treasury, or embarrass the employes of the Library. The cost of the experiment for a year in the Wells School was less than fifty dollars. Books thus read are read slowly,—*multum non multa*. The plan, if adopted, will be adopted only by the best and most enterprising teachers ; and even with the best will make its way slowly. But should it come to be generally adopted, against the expense, however great, would stand this grand result : a community of readers, systematically educated in the public schools, not only to read, but to select the best books for their reading which a great public library offers. Then will the Public Library take its true place at the head of the educational system of the city, and as truly a part of it, not merely in name."

It may be suggested that the above extracts are not wholly applicable to town libraries and schools, but there is evidently much in them that is suited to any place where books, even if few, and schools are found. We hope the teachers and parents here may carry out the suggestion to the profit of the rising generation.

Respectfully submitted.

E. APPLETON, *Chairman*.
HIRAM BARRUS, *Secretary*.
F. O. DEWEY,
S. FOSTER,
H. G. WADLIN,
W. S. PARKER,
Trustees.

Reading, March, 1881.

Auditors' Report.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1881.

LIABILITIES.

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Town notes, March 1, 1880..... | \$57,400 00 | |
| Town notes, March 1, 1881..... | 52,400 00 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Decrease for the year..... | 5,000 00 | \$52,400 00 |
| Interest accrued on town notes..... | 696 59 | |
| Due Fire Department (estimated)..... | 1,150 00 | |
| Miscellaneous debts, "..... | 100 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$1,946 59 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$54,346 59 |

AVAILABLE ASSETS.

| | | |
|---|----------|-------------|
| Unpaid taxes of the years 1878 and 1879, | | |
| J. A. Bancroft, Collector..... | \$939 42 | |
| Unpaid taxes of the year 1880..... | 5,482 97 | |
| Due from State (aid account) March 1, 1881, | 1,117 40 | |
| (military aid)..... | 140 00 | |
| city of Boston..... | 248 12 | |
| town of Malden..... | 9 00 | |
| town of Winchendon..... | 23 00 | |
| Claim on estate of Eben Beard..... | 165 23 | |
| Unexpended balance of State school fund.. | 161 66 | |
| Cash in treasury..... | 4,870 69 | |
| | <hr/> | \$13,157 49 |
| | | <hr/> |
| Net debt March 1, 1881..... | | \$41,189 10 |

SCHEDULE OF TOWN PROPERTY.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Town farm..... | \$4,500 00 | |
| Personal property at town farm..... | 2,395 63 | |
| | <hr/> | \$6,895 63 |

| | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| Cemetery land and lots..... | \$2,300 00 | |
| Hearse..... | 75 00 | |
| House..... | 50 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$2,425 00 |
| Eagle engine and hose carriage..... | 500 00 | |
| House..... | 500 00 | |
| Hancock engine and hose carriage..... | 450 00 | |
| House..... | 1,200 00 | |
| Washington engine..... | 50 00 | |
| House..... | 25 00 | |
| Hook and ladder, carriage, &c..... | 300 00 | |
| Furniture and hose..... | 1,250 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 4,275 00 |
| Property in town office..... | 400 00 | |
| School houses and furniture..... | 30,000 00 | |
| Public library..... | 2,500 00 | |
| Piano and apparatus in High School..... | 500 00 | |
| | <hr/> | 33,400 00 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | \$46,995 63 |

We have examined the books of the Selectmen, Treasurer and Collector, also the accounts of the Committee on Cemetery and Trustees of Public Library, for the year ending March 1, 1881, and find the same correct and properly vouched.

The books and accounts have been neatly kept, and show that the interests of the town have been well cared for by its officers.

We cannot but express the opinion, however, that a change in some respects of keeping the accounts is desirable.

The business of the town has grown to such an extent, the present may be a favorable time for the adoption of a more complete system of keeping and auditing accounts.

We would suggest that the receipt and expenditure of funds pertaining to the Cemetery and Public Library be made through the Town Treasurer in the same manner as for other departments, all vouchers to be in the custody of the Selectmen.

C. H. NOWELL, }
G. L. PARKER, } Auditors.

Reading, March 22, 1881.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF READING

FOR THE YEAR 1880-1.

Report.

The School Committee for the year ending March, 1881, respectfully submit the following report :

The Committee organized at the beginning of the year by the choice of Horace G. Wadlin, Chairman, and Charles F. Brown, Secretary. Mr. Brown, on account of the pressure of other duties, resigned December 28th, the vacancy in membership being filled by the election of Mr. W. Wallace Davis. At a subsequent meeting of the Committee, Mr. H. G. Kittredge was chosen Secretary, and continues in that position at the date of this report. The sub-committees of the year are as follows :

HIGH SCHOOL—Messrs. Wadlin and Kittredge.

FIRST GRAMMAR—Mr. Kittredge.

SECOND GRAMMAR—Mr. Wadlin.

THIRD GRAMMAR—Mr. Parker.

UPPER MEDIUM—Mr. Brown, Mr. Davis.

LOWER MEDIUM—Mr. Wightman.

UPPER PRIMARY—Union Street—Mr. Temple.

LOWER PRIMARY—Union Street—Mr. Temple.

WALNUT STREET SCHOOLS—Mr. Brown, Mr. Davis.

WOBURN STREET SCHOOLS—Mr. Wadlin.

LOWELL STREET SCHOOL—Mr. Kittredge.

MAIN STREET SCHOOL—Mr. Wightman.

HAVERHILL STREET SCHOOL—Mr. Parker.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The town during the past year has suffered the loss of several of its best teachers. It had been our good fortune to avoid numerous changes in our teaching force for an unusual length of time. Before

the opening of the fall term six resignations were placed in the hands of the Committee. Of these, the teacher whose loss was most widely felt, because of the position he occupied, his extended term of service, and the wide spread influence for good which he exerted upon the schools of the town, was Mr. Cyrus A. Cole of the High School. Mr. Cole's connection with the schools of Reading began in 1868, when he succeeded Mr. E. H. Peabody. The standard of the High School was gradually raised under his skillful administration, his excellence as a teacher, and his uniformly genial methods of discipline being productive of the best results. No better endorsement of his work can be given than to cite the constantly increasing attendance at the school during the last ten years, and the unusually large proportion of those, who, entering the school under his administration, remained to graduate. The ratio of pupils in the school to the whole number in town was, when he began his work, as 1 to 8 nearly; when he closed it was as 1 to 5.* During his period of service twelve classes were graduated, numbering 200 pupils. Many of these entered other schools after graduation, and nearly all who did so, ranked above the average in their entrance examination, thus testifying to the excellent instruction they had received. Mr. Cole resigned to accept a position in the State Normal School at Bridgewater.

Miss Evelyn Barrows, who resigned the charge of the First Grammar School, had taught in Reading since 1874, principally at Lowell Street, where she made an enviable reputation, being especially successful in primary work, for which she had a natural aptitude. She resigned to enter Wellesley College.

Miss Sarah L. Stoodley, of the Second Grammar School, had taught here since 1873, two years being spent at Walnut Street, one at the Third Grammar School, and the remainder in the position she filled at the time of her resignation. Miss Stoodley was always successful in her work, her enthusiasm and love for her profession contributing to this result. She was also an excellent disciplinarian, never resorting to corporal punishment. Her retirement from teaching caused her resignation.

Miss Annie M. Knight, of the Third Grammar School, had taught in that school for several years, and previously elsewhere in the town. Her quiet methods of government, and the high quality of her work,

* The ratio for the State at large in 1879, was as 1 to 14.5.

entitled her to rank among our best teachers. Her removal to California caused us the loss of her services.

Miss Marion E. H. Barrows, of the Main Street School, had taught in Reading one year only, but with success, and, like her sister above referred to, resigned to enter Wellesley College.

Miss Susan R. Drew, of the Walnut Street Grammar School, was also comparatively new to her field of labor, but under her charge the school had made good progress.

The above resignations were followed during the winter by that of Miss Florence B. King, who, since the opening of the spring term, had been in charge of the Woburn Street Grammar School, succeeding Miss Hattie A. French.

The vacancy in the First Grammar School was already provided for by the return of Miss Jennie R. Barrus after an absence of a year. The other vacancies were filled as follows :

HIGH SCHOOL—Mr. Geo. L. Perry.

SECOND GRAMMAR—Miss Harriet R. Morse.

THIRD GRAMMAR—Miss Alice M. Barrows.

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR—Miss Clara J. Coney.

WALNUT STREET GRAMMAR—Miss Sarah M. Pearson.

MAIN STREET SCHOOL—Miss Ella F. Wakefield.

These comprise the changes of the year.

It is always a serious matter to lose the services of a tried and faithful teacher, and it is seldom that such an event occurs without disturbance and consequent loss to the school. No matter how well qualified the new incumbent may be, her methods, both of teaching and government, are frequently widely different from those of her predecessor, and a stranger almost inevitably suffers by comparison with a former teacher, whose familiar habits and manner of speech are brought prominently into contrast with those of the new-comer.

This is especially the case when, as in some of our own schools, the teacher who leaves has for several years been connected with the school, and is personally known to nearly every one in the town. The embarrassment of a new teacher's position under such circumstances is often entirely overlooked in judging of his or her success. Any sign of weakness, any unfamiliar mode of procedure, an occasional error of judgment, such as would be allowed to pass without

remark if observed in the former teacher, is commented upon by the pupils, too often freely criticised in the home, the story passed from mouth to mouth gathers new interest and added importance in the transit, until, at last, the small failing which would no doubt have been speedily corrected, becomes so distorted that its original aspect is quite lost.

In view of the almost universal experience in such cases, we should have been exceptionally fortunate had the changes caused by the resignations noted above, been made without our incurring to some extent the evils to which we have referred. The schools have suffered as slightly as we could reasonably expect. As a whole they are in a progressive condition. Any evils which may exist will in proper time be corrected, and while we ask in behalf of every teacher, and especially those who are new to the positions they fill, the sympathy and support of every parent, we again repeat, what we have in previous years had occasion to say, that no teacher will be permanently retained by the Committee who is found after trial to be manifestly unadapted to the work. Of this, the town may be assured. But while a teacher is retained, he or she is entitled to, and should receive, the cordial co-operation of the parents. The less competent the teacher the greater the need of this support, and without it no teacher, however competent, can succeed.

We shall now speak of the different grades of schools in detail.

HIGH SCHOOL.

The Committee, upon the election of a new principal, enlarged the teaching force of this school by the engagement of Miss Emma S. Peirce, of Leicester, as second assistant. The need of another assistant teacher had previously been pointed out by the Committee, and one has now been supplied without, for the present at least, increasing the cost of maintaining the school. The school now numbers 101 pupils, the number of graduates in June being 21, as will be seen by reference to the Appendix, and the entering class in September comprising 35 pupils. Two non-residents were in attendance during the fall term and three during the winter, tuition being paid by them, as appears by an appended statement.

The work during the winter term has been somewhat disturbed by the absence of the second assistant, who left the school on account

of illness at the end of the seventh week. It was expected that she would soon be able to resume her place, and with this hope it was deemed best to carry the school along without the employment of a substitute. Unforeseen circumstances, however, prevented her return, and, at last, upon the advice of her physician, she asked for and received leave of absence until the spring term. Mr. L. F. Howard was at once employed as temporary substitute, leaving at the end of one week to accept a superior position elsewhere. Since then Mr. Henry C. Parker has successfully filled the place. These circumstances, which, however unfortunate, were unavoidable, more or less disarranged the work of the school and threw an unusual burden upon the principal and first assistant. Nevertheless, all the classes were carried along with the exception, during part of the time, of that in English. A special class in Arithmetic, for the benefit of certain pupils who especially need this study, was to have been formed during the winter, but the project has been deferred until the next term.

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

The number of pupils now in these schools is 150. Fifty pupils entered the grade during the year by promotion. The average number of pupils to each teacher is 30. The work has generally been satisfactorily performed, and requires no special comment.

PRIMARY AND INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.

Number of pupils in attendance 226*. Average number to each teacher, 38. No greater opportunity for improvement exists in our schools than is presented in this grade. In saying this, we do not necessarily imply that our primaries are in any respect inferior to those elsewhere. They may not be inferior, but the standard of these schools cannot be placed too high, nor the qualities requisite for a successful primary school teacher over-estimated.

The great defect of our primaries is the almost entire absence of a systematic effort to cultivate the opening powers of the mind. A similar defect no doubt exists in other schools. Everywhere too much effort is devoted to filling the mind with mere facts without making their acquirement a means of mental development. But a

* The average number of pupils enrolled in mixed schools is 47, comprising both grammar and primary classes.

higher aim than this, if wanting anywhere, can least be spared in the primaries. For it is here that the seed is sown for future growth. It is here the child acquires his first impressions of school life. Here he begins to form habits which will have a direct bearing upon all his after work. And it is of transcendent importance that his first steps be directed in the right path.

We are constantly called upon to perform work in the grammar schools which ought to have been finished once for all in the lower grade, and valuable time is irretrievably wasted. To remedy this, should be the aim of the immediate future, and no matter how excellent the results now accomplished may be, until the standard is carried considerably higher, the primaries will not be worthy of the highest praise. Lest we be thought too sweeping in our criticism, we desire to commend the disposition to improve manifested by some of the teachers in these schools.

In one school the teacher has introduced the plan of having a pupil, selected at random, come to the platform, and, facing the class, describe some object known only to himself. The other pupils follow his description and endeavor to discover what the object is, the first one to do this taking his turn at describing, the others attending as before. It will be seen that this simple exercise stimulates mental activity. The pupils, knowing that it may be repeated, are on the alert to discover new objects to describe, this bringing into action their observing powers; in the act of describing these objects the representative powers are called in play and language cultivated, while close attention and rapid mental action is required on the part of those who are trying to find out what is being described. Modifications of this exercise may be employed indefinitely. Its introduction shows that a spirit of improvement exists, which, if properly encouraged, would lead to valuable results.

ATTENDANCE.

The average attendance at all the schools has been lowered by the prevalence of diphtheria, measles and mumps.

There is a small percentage of avoidable absence which deserves attention. Slight as this evil is among us, it ought not to exist at all. Absenteeism and tardiness are not only injurious to the individual pupil, but they invariably lower the tone of the entire school, and when they may be avoided are, of course, inexcusable.

MUSIC.

Mr. Henry G. Carey, favorably known here as a teacher, has had charge of instruction in this branch during the fall and winter terms. It is unnecessary to refer in detail to his work, which is always highly satisfactory to the Committee and all connected with the schools. The musical exercises at the High School Graduation were under the direction of Mr. F. J. Bancroft, who is entitled to our thanks for his gratuitous assistance.

LECTURES.

With a view to the improvement of methods of teaching and to inspire renewed interest in the various branches pursued in the schools, a course of lectures upon educational topics was projected by the Committee and carried out during the winter.

The following lectures were given on the dates named :

October 22—Isaac J. Osburn, of Salem Normal School, subject : "Methods of teaching the elements of Physics and Chemistry."

October 29—M. W. Hazen, of Boston, subject : "Methods of teaching Reading."

November 12—George A. Walton, Agent of State Board of Education, subject : "Methods of teaching Arithmetic."

November 19—J. W. Dickinson, Secretary of State Board of Education, subject : "Methods of Teaching."

December 3—Henry G. Kittredge, Secretary of School Committee, subject : "The study of History."

December 10—Horace G. Wadlin, Chairman of School Committee, subject : "Some defects in the Schools, and how to remedy them."

January 7—E. A. Hubbard, Agent of State Board of Education, subject : "How is it that pupils learn so much and know so little?"

January 28—Mrs. Emma F. Bowler, of Somerville, subject : "Methods of teaching Industrial Drawing."

February 4—Rev. William Barrows, of Reading, subject : "Methods of teaching History, illustrated by American Colonies that failed."

February 18—Daniel B. Hagar, of Salem Normal School, subject : "Methods of teaching Book-keeping."

One other lecture was announced, that by Mrs. Annie D. C. Hardy, of Boston, subject : "Vocal Culture." This was postponed on account of the illness of the lecturer, and will probably be given hereafter.

The lecturers very generously rendered their services gratuitously,

and the incidental expenses of the entire course, amounting to but \$18.10, were paid from money received for tuition of non-residents.

The lectures were generally well attended by those for whose benefit they were chiefly given, and, it is hoped, will be productive of improvement in the schools.

REPAIRS.

The ordinary routine repairs have been attended to, as will appear from the financial report. The High School building has received an additional coat of paint upon the exterior, and the interior has been renovated. One of the furnaces was found to be defective and was replaced by another of improved construction. Certain alterations in the hot air pipes were made, which rendered it possible to heat the entire house from one furnace during the fall, and ensured the proper heating of the recitation rooms, previously but partially accomplished. No other extraordinary expenses have been incurred. A complete statement of expenses for repairs, etc., appears in the Appendix.

CONCLUSION.

Admitting their defects, but strenuously asserting their merits also, we would, in conclusion, enter our plea for an intelligent public spirit in favor of the schools.

It is the fashion of this age to delegate important work to specialists. However sound this practice may be, and we certainly do not question it, there are, nevertheless, individual responsibilities which none of us can avoid. It is an old maxim, and as true as it is old, that the teacher makes the school. But in our day, at least, it is sometimes a question whether she shall be allowed to make it; and the answer depends very much upon the attitude of the parents towards her. Differences of opinion in respect to discipline are constantly arising, and their reconciliation is often involved in difficulty. We read that in the old days, in an important juncture, when Moses needed their aid, Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands. In a different time and in another sense, it is necessary to stay up the hands of those to whom we have delegated the instruction of the young. And on their part let the teachers strive to so inform the mind and quicken its powers that the fruits of that instruction may be permanent. Lest otherwise their pupils become like those of whom old Roger Ascham

remarked, more than three hundred years ago, with homely phrase but sound sense, "their whole knowledge was tied only to their tongue and lips, and never ascended up to the brain and head, and therefore was soon spitte out of the mouth againe." And let them not forget, that however the intellect be cultivated, unless the moral faculties are developed, man is but a brute ; and in dealing with the child, who is soon to be a child no longer, let them not only seek to reach the "brain and head," but the heart also, that he may grow unto the measure of the stature of a perfect man.

APPROPRIATIONS.

We recommend that the sum of \$3,000 be raised for the maintenance of schools during the coming year, with \$700 additional for incidentals.

The terms of Messrs. Davis and Wightman expire, leaving two vacancies to be filled at the annual town meeting.

The usual statistics, financial reports, etc., are contained in the Appendix, to which attention is invited.

Respectfully submitted,

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| HORACE G. WADLIN, | } School Committee of Reading. |
| <i>Chairman,</i> | |
| W. WALLACE DAVIS, | |
| HENRY G. KITTREDGE, | |
| STILLMAN E. PARKER, | |
| ARTHUR W. TEMPLE, | |
| WILLIAM J. WIGHTMAN, | |

ADOPTED IN SCHOOL COMMITTEE :

March 10, 1881.

APPENDIX.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Population of Reading..... | 3,181 |
| Number of children between 5 and 15 years of age, May, 1880..... | 498 |
| Number between 8 and 14 years of age, (compulsory school age)..... | 298 |
| Amount appropriated for instruction, fuel and care of rooms..... | \$8,000 00 |
| Amount appropriated for incidentals..... | 700 00 |
| Amount drawn from State School Fund..... | 35 87 |
| Amount received from other sources..... | 22 92 |
| Total receipts..... | <hr/> \$8,758 79 |
| Expended for instruction, fuel and care of rooms..... | \$7,982 41 |
| Expended for incidentals..... | 722 28 |
| Expended for apparatus, etc..... | 35 87 |
| Total expenditure..... | <hr/> \$8,740 56 |
| Balance unexpended..... | <hr/> \$18 23 |

PUPILS.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Whole number of different pupils enrolled during the year.... | 594 |
| Average whole number (from returns of each term)..... | 522 |
| Average daily attendance | 460 |
| Per cent of attendance (based upon average number enrolled). | .88 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Number enrolled during the year between 8 and 14 years of age (compulsory school age)..... | 315 |
| Number of pupils admitted to High School | 35 |
| Youngest pupil admitted, age | 12 years 6 mos. |
| Oldest " " " | 17 " 7 " |
| Average age of pupils admitted..... | 14 " 9 " |

TEACHERS.

| | |
|---|---------|
| Number of male teachers employed | 1 |
| Number of female teachers employed | 16 |
| Average wages per month of female teachers | \$37 75 |
| Number of teachers who have attended normal schools | 5 |
| Number of teachers who have graduated from normal schools | 5 |

NAMES OF PUPILS GRADUATING FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE, 1880.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Helen M. Barrows, | Mary C. Holden, |
| Nellie Brown, | Edith W. Judd, |
| Marcella L. Clark, | Josephine E. Melendy, |
| Marcella Coburn, | L. Fannie Mitchell, |
| Eveline Converse, | Annie P. Reid, |
| Alice O. Dow, | Harriet N. Wilson, |
| Elnora A. Emerson, | Guy C. Channell, |
| Grace L. Fletcher, | Philip Emerson, |
| Hannah E. Hibbert, | George Hill, |
| Hattie M. Holden, | Edgar M. Knight, |
| | Charles A. Loring. |

ROLL OF HONOR.

Giving the names of those who have been neither absent nor tardy since March, 1880, and the schools to which they belong.

HIGH SCHOOL.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| ‡Hattie E. Austin, | *Martha E. Babb, |
| Grace H. Brown, | *Laurie E. Clark, |
| Hattie B. Lewis, | *Lizzie B. Parker, |
| *Mabel F. Brown, | ‡Emma M. Damon, |
| ‡Hattie F. Damon, | †Mary A. Emerson, |
| Agnes H. Forbes, | ‡Annie C. Lawrence, |

* * Annie M. Moulton,
Susan R. Nichols,
Lillia A. Sweetser,
* William A. Weston,

* * Sylvina F. Moulton,
* Arthur T. McKay,
* * Kate M. Trow,
* * Walter M. Kingman.

FIRST GRAMMAR.

Annie P. Channell,
† Annie N. Kingman,

Annie G. Whelton,
Edward D. Brown,
Alvin G. Somes.

SECOND GRAMMAR.

† Annie J. Riordan.

THIRD GRAMMAR.

† Nellie Riordan, * Ella Parker.
Emma Berry (not absent—tardy once).

WOBURN STREET GRAMMAR.

Wallace Roby, * Hattie Richardson.

UPPER MEDIUM.

Edward W. Perry, * Kirke P. Sanborn,
Everett Skinner, Alice Peabody.

LOWER MEDIUM.

Charles F. Kealey, Henry W. Jones.

UNION STREET LOWER PRIMARY.

Susette C. Berry.

WOBURN STREET PRIMARY.

Lucy W. Roby.

LOWELL STREET MIXED.

Nathaniel G. Hill.

Parker J. Gowing, of the Second Grammar School, has not been absent in three years and has been tardy twice only.

* Neither absent nor tardy in two years.

† Neither absent nor tardy in three years.

‡ Neither absent nor tardy in four years.

* * Neither absent nor tardy in five years.

Table Showing Salaries, Attendance and Number of Visitors.

| Names of Schools. | Number of Visitors. | Teachers now employed. | Salary now paid. | Number of pupils. | | | Average Attendance. | | | Pupils during year over 15 years. | Pupils during year under 5 years. |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|-------------------|----------|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1st Term. | 2d Term. | 3d Term. | 1st Term. | 2d Term. | 3d Term. | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| High School..... | 123.. | { George L. Perry, Principal..... Miss Mary L. Stinchfield, 1st Assistant " Emma S. Peirce, 2d Assistant... | \$1000 00 per year, 12 00 per week. | 97 | 100 | 101 | 94 | 97 | 97 | 77 | .... |
| First Grammar | 126.. | Miss Jennie R. Barrus. | 9 00 do | 32 | 48 | 46 | 30 | 45 | 43 | 7 | .... |
| Second Grammar.... | 90.. | " Harriet R. Morse. | 13 00 do | 31 | 25 | 26 | 30 | 22 | 23 | 2 | .... |
| Third Grammar | 74.. | " Alice M. Barrows | 12 00 do | 24 | 27 | 29 | 23 | 25 | 26 | .... | .... |
| Woburn Street Grammar..... | 44.. | " Clara J. Coney..... | 12 00 do | 26 | 30 | 29 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 1 | .... |
| Walnut Street Grammar..... | 79.. | " Sarah M. Pearson..... | 8 00 do | 20 | 27 | 30 | 13 | 22 | 25 | 2 | .... |
| Upper Medium..... | 124.. | " Evelyn S. Foster..... | 10 00 do | 27 | 32 | 32 | 26 | 29 | 28 | .... | .... |
| Lower Medium..... | 110.. | " Sadie R. Lindsay..... | 10 00 do | 42 | 33 | 35 | 40 | 31 | 32 | .... | .... |
| Union Street Upper Primary.. | 235.. | Mrs. Sarah A. Goodridge..... | 10 00 do | 50 | 60 | 58 | 46 | 54 | 45 | .... | .... |
| Union Street Lower Primary.. | 208.. | Miss Ruth L. Pratt..... | 10 00 do | 57 | 40 | 38 | 45 | 33 | 23 | .... | 3 |
| Woburn Street Primary..... | 52.. | " Evelyn C. Bancroft | 7 50 do | 30 | 33 | 29 | 28 | 28 | 23 | .... | .... |
| Walnut Street Primary..... | 31.. | " Vestina P. Converse..... | 6 00 do | 30 | 32 | 21 | 28 | 20 | 10 | .... | .... |
| Lowell Street Mixed..... | 31.. | " Cora M. Prescott..... | 8 50 do | 22 | 25 | 23 | 20 | 19 | 16 | .... | .... |
| Main Street Mixed..... | 16.. | " Ella F. Wakefield..... | 6 00 do | 11 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 7 | .... | .... |
| Haverhill Street Mixed..... | 39.. | " Z. A. Wakefield..... | 6 00 do | 13 | 14 | 13 | 10 | 12 | 12 | .... | 2 |
| Totals..... | 1382.. | | | 512 | 536 | 518 | 467 | 471 | 442 | 89 | 5 |

Expenses of Schools.

INSTRUCTION.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Paid for teaching High School..... | \$1,797 57 |
| First Grammar..... | 482 00 |
| Second Grammar..... | 456 00 |
| Third Grammar..... | 451 20 |
| Woburn Street Grammar..... | 436 80 |
| Walnut Street Grammar..... | 324 00 |
| Upper Medium..... | 380 00 |
| Lower Medium..... | 380 00 |
| Union Street Upper Primary.. | 380 00 |
| Union Street Lower Primary.. | 380 00 |
| Woburn Street Primary..... | 277 50 |
| Walnut Street Primary..... | 228 00 |
| Lowell Street Mixed..... | 323 00 |
| Main Street Mixed..... | 252 00 |
| Haverhill Street Mixed..... | 228 00 |
| instruction in Music..... | 260 00 |
| | <hr/> \$7,036 07 |

JANITORS.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Paid for care of Centre School buildings..... | \$318 00 |
| Woburn Street School buildings.. | 54 50 |
| Walnut Street School buildings.. | 55 00 |
| Lowell Street School buildings.. | 32 00 |
| Main Street School buildings... | 28 50 |
| Haverhill Street School buildings, | 28 50 |
| | <hr/> \$516 50 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | <hr/> \$7,552 57 |

Amount brought forward,

\$7,552 57

FUEL.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Paid J. C. Gleason, for coal | \$293 75 | |
| George Beasley, for wood..... | 88 50 | |
| S. E. Parker, for wood..... | 16 50 | |
| labor on wood..... | 31 09 | |
| | <hr/> | \$429 84 |
| Total amount expended..... | \$7,982 41 | |
| Total amount unexpended..... | 17 59 | |
| | <hr/> | |
| Appropriation. | \$8000 00 | |

STATE SCHOOL FUND.

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| Received from Treasurer of Commonwealth..... | \$197 53 | |
| Expended for Apparatus and Books..... | \$35 87 | |
| Amount remaining unexpended..... | 161 66 | |
| | <hr/> | \$197 53 |

TUITION OF NON-RESIDENTS.

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Received for tuition of non-residents, 1879-80... | \$12 00 | |
| Received for tuition of non-residents, 1880-81... | 30 00 | |
| | <hr/> | \$42 00 |
| Expended for lectures at High School..... | \$18 10 | |
| Paid into Treasury (Incidental Fund)..... | 16 00 | |
| Balance in hands of Committee..... | 7 90 | |
| | <hr/> | \$42 00 |

INCIDENTAL SCHOOL EXPENSES.

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| Paid Copeland & Bowser, curtains..... | \$1 58 | |
| Laug's Express, express fees..... | 1 45 | |
| H. G. Wadlin, cash expended for sundries.. | 3 10 | |
| F. E. Brooks, labor..... | 18 75 | |
| C. T. Tolman, printing..... | 10 50 | |
| C. A. Loring, labor..... | 2 00 | |
| E. F. Taylor, crayons..... | 4 50 | |
| Old South Parish, use of church..... | 15 00 | |
| | <hr/> | |

Amount carried forward,

\$56 88

| | |
|--|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$56 88 |
| Paid Jeremiah C. Cook, contract for painting | |
| High School building..... | 86 00 |
| Wm. W. Blanchard, labor | 6 00 |
| G. W. Atkinson, sundry supplies | 13 60 |
| J. C. Cook, painting | 34 85 |
| S. M. Hall, stock and labor | 72 14 |
| N. W. Broad, stock and labor | 87 96 |
| J. Mandeville, printing..... | 5 25 |
| A. G. Whitcomb, chairs and desk..... | 12 20 |
| Peters & Jones, brooms | 3 50 |
| D. P. Babb, labor | 10 00 |
| A. W. Danforth, books..... | 31 42 |
| Tuttle & Bailey M'fg. Co., ash cans..... | 11 00 |
| C. A. Loring, sundry supplies..... | 60 |
| D. Appleton & Co., books..... | 2 64 |
| James Reid, cambric | 70 |
| S. R. Roby, cleaning well..... | 50 |
| J. N. Nichols, glazing..... | 40 |
| Melvin Batchelder, glazing | 40 |
| H. G. Kittredge, cash expended for sun- | |
| dries | 3 09 |
| Mrs. Jones, labor | 60 |
| Mrs. McKenney, labor..... | 40 |
| E. Ruggles, thermometers | 75 |
| D. Pratt's Sons, clock repairing | 1 50 |
| Smith & Anthony Stove Co., furnace and | |
| labor | 175 00 |
| Smith & Anthony Stove Co., piping and | |
| labor | 27 35 |
| M. Hanley, chairs | 7 40 |
| W. H. Twombly, printing..... | 3 00 |
| Wendell Bancroft, labor and stock..... | 15 05 |
| Geo. W. Stevens, stove repairing..... | 5 00 |
| Geo. O. Batchelder, rent of Main street | |
| school lot, 1880 | 5 00 |
| F. J. Bancroft, labor..... | 75 |
| <i>Amount carried forward,</i> | \$680 93 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| <i>Amount brought forward,</i> | \$680 93 |
| Paid F. J. Bancroft, tuning piano and sundries. | 6 30 |
| S. R. Roby, sundry supplies | 3 75 |
| S. Martin, sundry supplies..... | 2 97 |
| Citizens' Gaslight Co., gas..... | 14 00 |
| T. Littlefield, sundry supplies and repairs | 11 40 |
| S. E. Parker, sundry supplies | 1 75 |
| M. E. Nichols, glazing..... | 1 18 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total amount expended..... | \$722 28 |
| Unexpended | 64 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$722 92 |
| Receipts : | |
| Appropriation | \$700 00 |
| From sale of old junk..... | 6 92 |
| From tuition of non-residents | 16 00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$722 92 |

Town Warrant.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MIDDLESEX, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Reading.

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the town of Reading, qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to meet in Lyceum Hall in said Reading, on Monday, the FOURTH day of APRIL, A. D. 1881, at eight o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following articles, viz.:

ARTICLE 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

ART. 2. To hear and act on the report of the Auditors, Treasurer, Collectors, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, School Committee, Road Commissioners, Engineers of the Fire Department, Trustees of the Public Library, and Trustees of the Cemetery.

ART. 3. To hear and act on the report of the Committee chosen November 2, 1880, to aid the Selectmen in preventing the illegal sale of intoxicating liquors in this town.

ART. 4. To see if the town will revoke its acceptance of the provisions of the 158th chapter of the laws of this State enacted in the year 1871, and abolish the board of Road Commissioners, chosen and constituted under said law, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 5. To choose a Town Clerk, Selectmen, Assessors, Overseers of the Poor, Treasurer, Collector, two School Committee for three years, one Road Commissioner for three years, and all other necessary town officers.

ART. 6. To see if the town will choose a Superintendent of Streets.

ART. 7. To see if the town will change the grade of Main street, between land of R. B. Wright and the railroad, so as to give better drainage to said street, and how much money they will raise and appropriate for the same, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 8. To see if the town will instruct the Road or County Commissioners to widen Ash street at the junction of Main and Ash streets, and south from said junction to about seventy feet, more or less, to an uniform width of fifty feet, or to do anything in relation to the same.

ART. 9. To see if the town will accept the report of the Road Commissioners on laying out town ways from Locust street, past the residences of Henry A. Wright and R. B. Burgess to Bancroft avenue, and how much they will raise and appropriate therefor.

ART. 10. To see if the town will raise and appropriate sufficient money to repair the sidewalks on Salem street.

ART. 11. To see if the town will build a sidewalk on Mt. Vernon street, from Linden street to Bancroft avenue, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 12. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of five hundred dollars for the purpose of laying concrete sidewalks, provided also that the abutters pay one-half the expense in laying the same.

ART. 13. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of one thousand dollars for the improvement of the Common, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 14. To take a vote, as provided in Chapter 54 of the Statutes of 1881, on the question of granting licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors,—in this vote the check list will be used, and the ballots will be “Yes” or “No,” in answer to the question shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?

ART. 15. To see if the town will build a cistern on Mt. Vernon street, and also at or near the junction of Summer avenue and Walnut street, and how much money they will raise and appropriate for that purpose.

ART. 16. To see if the town will erect and maintain street lights at the corner of Main and Locust, High and Green, Green and Ash, Village and Green, Minot and Washington, Minot and Warren avenue, Minot and Centre avenue, Main and Avon, Mineral and Summer avenue, and also on Summer avenue at a point 250 feet south of Mineral street, and how much money they will raise and appropriate therefor.

ART. 17. To see if the town will build a new engine house for Eagle Engine, No. 4, and how much

money they will raise and appropriate for the same, or what they will do in relation thereto.

ART. 18. To see if the town will purchase a new hearse and build a new hearse house, and how much money they will raise and appropriate therefor.

ART. 19. To raise money for schools.

ART. 20. To raise money for incidental school expenses.

ART. 21. To raise money for repair of highways and bridges.

ART. 22. To raise money for the fire department.

ART. 23. To raise money for the support of the poor.

ART. 24. To raise money for the lighting and care of street lights.

ART. 25. To raise money for the salaries of town officers, and fix the compensation of all officers and committees elected or appointed by the town.

ART. 26. To raise money for the improvement of the cemetery.

ART. 27. To raise and appropriate money for the public library.

ART. 28. To raise and appropriate money for military and state aid.

ART. 29. To raise and appropriate money for miscellaneous expenses.

ART. 30. To raise money for the repair and decoration of soldier's graves.

ART. 31. To raise money for the Old South clock.

ART. 32. To raise money to pay interest on the town debt.

ART. 33. To raise money for the reduction of the town debt.

ART. 34. To see if the town will purchase a new flag, and see how much money they will raise and appropriate for that purpose.

ART. 35. To see what action the town will take in regard to the payment of a note of ten thousand dollars due the Commonwealth of Massachusetts November 11th, 1881.

ART. 36. To see if the town will authorize their Treasurer to hire money, under the direction of the Selectmen, in anticipation of taxes.

ART. 37. To see what instruction the town will give the Selectmen in regard to printing the by-laws.

ART. 38. To see what action the town will take in regard to the preservation of the records and other property in the town office.

ART. 39. To see what instructions the town will give their Assessors and Collector.

ART. 40. To hear and act on a list of jurors prepared by the Selectmen.

ART. 41. To hear and act on the report of the Road Commissioners in relation to guide posts

ART. 42. To see if the town will pay for the use of Lyceum Hall for a citizens' caucus to be held the last Saturday in March, 1882, or what they will do in regard to the same.

ART. 43. To see if the town will place flag-stones across Woburn street, from a point west of the railroad crossing to Lincoln street, and from A. W. Danforth's store, across High street, to the railroad, and how much

money they will raise and appropriate for that purpose.

ART. 44. To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred dollars for the purpose of lowering the grade of the hill opposite the residence of J. Brooks Nichols, also the hill opposite the residence of Henry S. LaClair, both on Main street.

ART. 45. To see what action the town will take concerning the laying out and building of a street across the railroad near the Reading Highland Station.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings therein, to the Town Clerk, at or before the time appointed for said meeting.

Given under our hands this twenty-fourth day of March, A. D. 1881.

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| JOSEPH L. PRATT, | } Selectmen of Reading. |
| JAMES REID | |
| WILLIAM J. HOLDEN, | |

A true copy.—Attest:

WM. L. CROWE, Constable.



